

Break

Seeking shelter

As predicted in this space five weeks ago, Ken Livingstone's take-over of the Labour leadership of the Greater London Council after the county council elections has been followed by a consequential *push* in education, where his chairman Bryn Davies on Saturday defeated Sir Ashley Bramall to become leader of the Inner London Education Authority.

Sir Ashley appears to have been rather more resigned to his fate than Andrew McIntosh, former Labour leader on the GLC. He is reported to have cleared out his desk before the group meeting which toppled him.

On Monday morning, Bryn Davies took over his room at County Hall and, at least on a temporary basis, his former PA, Steve Clarke. Later in the day, Sir Ashley reported that his old colleague, Margaret Morgan, was "giving me shelter" in her office. That too can be only a temporary arrangement since at the time of writing she could only be sure of remaining development sub-committee chairman until the first meeting of the new full authority on June 2. The new ILEA Labour group in fact was expected to elect its new committee chairman today though it had already been suggested by Ken Livingstone that they would not necessarily make such a clean Left-wing sweep of the old team as they have done with co-opted members.

One of Sir Ashley's first calls of the day, however, was to his old chambers, where he has never completely given up his practice as a barrister, specializing in landlord, tenant and property work. He used to write and edit books too, before he began devoting himself night and day to ILEA and all the representational jobs on the Association of Metropolitan Authorities and Burnham which flowed out of it.

Confessing to withdrawal symptoms for what after all had been "an enormous part of my life", for more than 10 years he nevertheless found it quite refreshing to get into chambers and "get the smell in my nostrils". He asked if they would please find him any work that was going.

He also expects to be kept pretty busy in his local constituency, Bethnal Green and Bow, where he only just held on in last week's GLC election against a tough challenge from the Liberals, who had drafted in helpers from all over east London to build on their local grass-roots campaign in a bid to oust him. His own creaking local Labour Party organization, by contrast, had completely forgotten (if they ever knew) how to fight marginals.

Sir Ashley holds his seat on the Burnham FE committee personally, since ILEA no longer has a seat as of right, and he can be expected to keep that at least until the AMA annual meeting in July. It is a moot point whether the AMA education committee will appoint Bryn Davies to succeed him, since it would be surprising if they put in someone straight away who had no experience at all on the committee circuit.

The same position is likely to apply to the GLC currently held by Mair Garside, who also holds her Burnham seat on the primary and secondary committee on a personal basis. She has in her turn been deposed as deputy leader of ILEA in favour of the rather less moderate Frances Morrell.



Frances Morrell: well informed

Big Lil strikes again

Frances Morrell is better known as Tony Benn's adviser in Government, and also as Big Lil in her new GLC constituency of Islington South and Finsbury (she is alleged to be over six feet tall and tough with it).

A Hull university graduate, she has been described as bright but bigoted, and has always been known as a strong left-winger. Although not closely connected with the educational scene of late, she is a former teacher and regarded as exceptionally well-informed on most issues by her political colleagues.

She was a particularly energetic press officer for the National Union of Students in the early 'seventies, and much of the extensive coverage for students around that time can be attributed to her efforts. She was certainly a formidable opponent if anything hostile about students appeared, as testify.

It is quite difficult to envisage her playing second fiddle to the impressive low-key Bryn Davies.

Personal column

Ted Wragg The defence rests

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, this has been a long and tiring case, indeed a piece of legal history, for we are not accustomed in Britain to bringing teachers before the courts this way.

You have listened to attempts by a number of witnesses to besmirch my client's professional reputation. In summing up I ask you to remember that my client, Mr Hopsack, has been a most successful maths teacher at West Swinshire Comprehensive School for 10 years, and has refused every single allegation of professional malpractice which has been made during the three weeks of this hearing.

I draw your attention to the particularly noxious and discredited testimony of Mr and Mrs Goodall, who alleged that their son Nigel was on several occasions told to "shove off" when he asked my client to mark his homework. You will recall my client's contention that it was only police brutality that led him to sign a so-called "confession" that this was true.

You have further heard that Mr Goodall misinterpreted the conversation he had with my client Mr Hopsack at a subsequent parents' evening. When Mr Goodall asked why his son's book was never marked, my client's reply "Piss off" was a reference to a little known Slavonic psychologist who has demonstrated that the correction of pupils' exercise books seriously inhibits the learning of essential algebraic concepts.

We were told that Mrs Goodall had expressed concern at the same parents' evening, that Mr Hopsack was allowing children to use calculators, and that they might thus not learn basic mathematical operations. My client's reply that he would make sure someone walked with a red flag in front of pupils using a calculator was uttered in jest, and was not meant to imply that Mrs Goodall was in any sense old-fashioned or over-anxious.

I do not need to waste any more time on the snivelling allegations which came from Mr Goodall during his second appearance in the witness box. When he said that Mr Hopsack had regularly turned in to Racing from Chestow instead of the BBC schools broadcast *Euclid* can be *Run*. My client's eloquent explanation of the excellent opportunities for the study of probability afforded by games of chance fully refuted this squalid innuendo. Equally it seems eminently reasonable, I am sure members of the jury will agree, that as sole person in possession of a large leather holdall, Mr Hopsack should act as bookmaker.

You have further heard from Colonel Ponsonby-Greville, chairman of the school governors, that Mr Hopsack was "aggressively working class". The witness drew this unwarranted conclusion largely because my client brought two of his whippets to last year's Speech Day, wore flat cap and white nuffer, consumed half a case of Newcastle Brown Ale while sitting on the platform, broke wind frequently during the ceremony, and called out "Rock on, squire" when Colonel Ponsonby-Greville was addressing the school.

I was personally deeply moved by my client's account of the lengths to which he was prepared to go to secure the part of *Estragon* in *Swinehead Dramatic Society's* production of *Waiting for Godot*, knowing that the producer was sitting in the audience and that there were to be free performances for the elderly to bring a little joy into the twilight of their lives.

The cheapest and most public attempt to blacken my client's character, however, was undoubtedly the scurrilous accusation of malpractice from his colleague Mr Jepson, in Lordship was quite right to warn the jury to regard with the greatest scepticism the testimony of someone who had graduated in sociology.

Mr Jepson, you will recall, shared with my client responsibility for the school skiing trip to Miami Beach. That there were no mountains and that the temperature never fell below 90 degrees was clearly not my client's fault, and you will, I am sure, agree that he fully justified his decision to charge parents £600 instead of the brochure price of £275 because of the need for a staff float.

In view of my client's well-known interest in ornithology, the disappearance of each evening was looking for a few local birds with the contempt it deserved.

We heard from the landlord of Dog and Partridge how many hours Mr Hopsack had selflessly devoted to the planning of this trip, and how sorry he had been that his colleagues had to supervise his classes throughout February.

This brings me to the final and probably most important piece of evidence I wish to consider in my summation. The court has heard that my client was said by some of his colleagues to spend more time sitting in the staff common room than in the classroom.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, cannot pretend that I like the process of selecting senior teachers, but I submit that it is this last piece of evidence which demonstrates conclusively that my client Mr Hopsack is unquestionably the best of the candidates you have interviewed for the vacant deputy headship.

THE TIMES Educational Supplement

FRIDAY MAY 22 1981 NUMBER 3387

FIRST PUBLISHED 1910 PRICE 35p

Protest after Rampton is sacked

Mr Anthony Rampton, chairman of the committee of inquiry into the education of children from ethnic minorities has been replaced after criticism from some of his members. The committee's interim report, which has yet to be published, contains the first official evidence that West Indian pupils do dramatically worse at O and A levels than the national average.

More members set to quit

A leading member of the Rampton committee on the education of ethnic minority children is planning to resign in protest at the enforced resignation of the chairman, Mr Anthony Rampton. Mr Kenneth Millans, former director of Edgely College of Higher Education, Lancs., and chairman of the Rampton sub-committee on teacher education, said: "I am unhappy that the chairman felt impelled to resign."

Another white member is also likely to resign. Dr Bhaskin Parikh, a lecturer at Hull University, emphasized that no black member would quit, although it was earlier feared that four of the six might go.

Mr Anthony Rampton, chairman of Freeman's Hall Order and treasurer of Lambeth Community Relations Council, was replaced by Lord Swann, provost of Oriel College, Oxford. He was asked to resign two weeks ago by Mr Mark Carlisle, the Education Secretary, following criticism by some committee members of his failure to control the committee and to take effective decisions. A scheduled meeting of the committee was cancelled on Mr Carlisle's instructions. He then told the Commons: "Mr Rampton has tendered his resignation because of the greater demands of the committee's future work on his time." But it is thought that Mr Carlisle decided a stronger chairman was needed to complete the final report.

Mr Rampton said: "I can't make any further comment on the statement; I've resigned and that's that. I wish Lord Swann every success and I am most anxious that the work should go on." The committee was set up two years ago under the last Labour Government to review the education of ethnic minority children.

The first official evidence that West Indian pupils do dramatically worse at O and A levels than the national average is contained in a survey specially commissioned by the Rampton committee. The survey of school leavers in six English towns where the majority of West Indians live reveals that only 3 per cent of West Indian children achieved at least five O levels, compared with 18 per cent of Asians, 16 per cent of all other local children, and 21 per cent of the country as a whole. Only 2 per cent of West Indians passed A level, compared with 13 per cent of Asians, 12 per cent of others, and 13 per cent of the whole country.

The still unpublished survey is believed to show that at lower academic levels the contrasts are not quite so stark—that a higher proportion of West Indians passed fewer O levels.

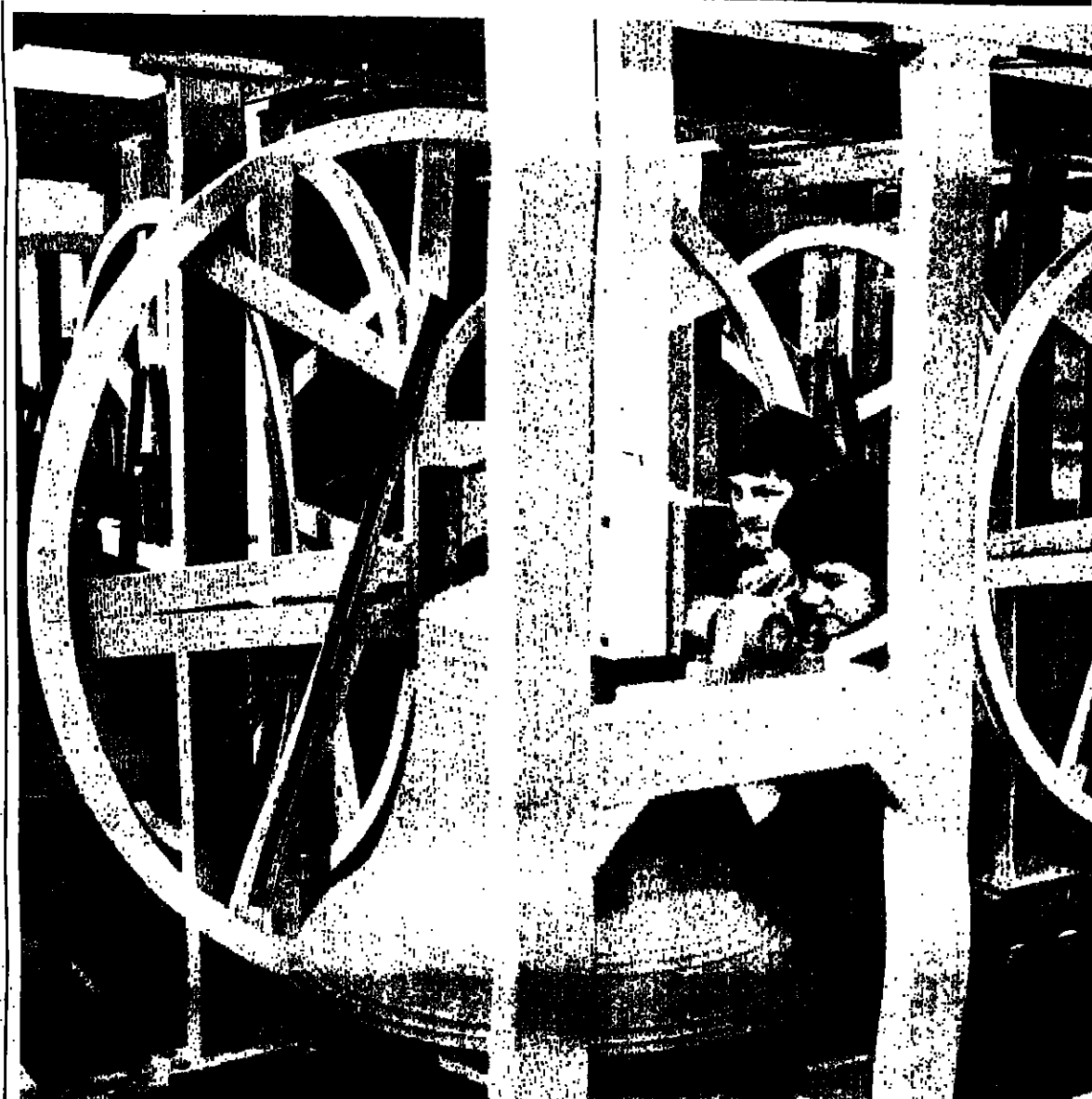
The figures were obtained during the Department of Education's annual survey of 10 per cent of school leavers in 1979. Extra questions about the ethnic origin of pupils were added to the questionnaire at the request of the Rampton committee. Teachers were advised on how to categorise each pupil. DES statisticians accepted that there was bound to be a considerable margin of error, but that the degree of difference between ethnic groups was so marked that their general findings are considered to be broadly correct. Lord Swann, a former chairman of the BBC, said this week: "It is not the easiest of jobs, particularly taking over in midstream, but it is obviously an important and worrying social problem which is part of a bigger problem."

The Government had expected a short, crisp report instead of the 100 page document it has got. New evidence on how those paragon of traditional family life, Peter and Jane, survived the radical anti-sexist 1960s and 1970s has now been published. And traditionalists will be relieved to hear that things haven't changed much.

True, Peter now likes to help Mummy, and Jane likes to help Daddy. But when it comes to the point, "Jane has to help Mummy work in the house" and "Peter has to help Daddy with the car".

David Whiting compared two editions of Book 4a in the Ladybird reading scheme—the old 1964 one, with Jane in her pretty white dress, and the 1980 revision, *Things We Do*, with Jane in T-shirt and jeans. It turned out the change was more one of fashion than lifestyle.

True, the new Ladybird because a revision in 1978 of another of their titles,



Two pupils at Wanstead High School in east London, Ian Brett and David Wills, take part in the school's project to restore the bells of the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Ilford

Quangos chopped

Two more educational quangos have lost their lives in the Government's campaign to cut public spending. The Prime Minister announced this week they are the Inter-University Council and the Technical Education and Training Organization for Overseas Countries, which featured on a list of 158 bodies axed since December at an annual saving of about £1.5m.

The TES

The price of *The Times Educational Supplement* goes up to 45p from the issue of May 29, 1981.

This week

Fears for foreign journeys 3

Inside the Lambeth NUT 5

Nazi threats against teachers 6

Keyed in to learning 9

Aberdeen's international schools 18

Extra Social work and administration 23-26

Lingo 22

Science scheme reviews 27

Special pages: broadcasting 29,30

Comment 2

Platform 4

School to Work 10

Overseas 12,13

Letters 14,15

Talkback 16

Features 17-19

Review 20

Arts 21,22

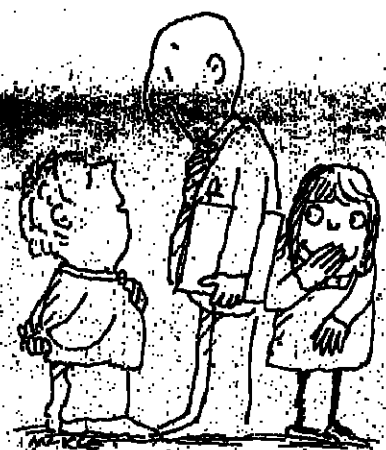
Books 23-26

Media 28

Endpage 31

Aristides, Personal Column, Crossword 68

Classified 32



"They were right to close the school, Sir. Election day was a great educational experience."

Bluefoot man

"It jus dat wen I dance o music well up mit hearing big, an I want no knowlege, it want to tinkin, no speakin, all it want is feelin well in wid swing of place movin."

Anyone who wants that translating—and teachers with Caribbean-born pupils take note—should buy and read the sedate English version in James Berry's new anthology of poetry *Bluefoot Traveller*, published by this house.

Mr Berry, who was once writer-in-residence at Vauxhall Manor School, South London, gave a spirited reading of the Creole version at the book's launch at the African Centre in Covent Garden the other day.

He was joined by several other poets whose work is featured in the book. Most of them were born in the Caribbean: Jamaica, (Mr Berry's home), Antigua, Montserrat, St Vincent and Barbados, although one or two were born here.

The book's title is a Jamaican term for an outsider, a man from another country or village who has come to settle in a new place. The man has blue feet from bruising as he walks barefoot along hot roads and railway tracks, with his belongings, looking for a new home. Even when he finds one and settles down, he is still known as the bluefoot man.

This is a revised edition of the first

appeared in 1976 with 12 poets. The new one contains the work of 19 poets including five women.

The evening started in true Caribbean style, with the poets performing their poems before Mr Berry made his appearance. ("You keeping African time man", muttered one of his audience in good humoured irritation.)

But he was worth waiting for as he had planned the presentation to show the Caribbean zest for living as well as the darker, serious side of life in urban England.

Fred Williams, born in Jamaica, came to England when he was 16 and now works for British Rail. He acted his poem *When I walk the streets*, which starts:

"When I walk the streets of these foreign lands
And see the ways in which our people are suffering
Loneliness, disillusionment, frustration
Then I take a close look at myself
Walking through the fires
And just barely getting singed.
Naturally the mind runs back
Bringing back memories from back-a-yard."

The lie and the poem break into dialect and reach pathos and hilarity in the next 12 verses.

Jim Rand from Barbados who now runs a theatre in Brixton, was equally amusing with his poem, *Is You? (a Caribbean folk tale)*. This tells the story of a man who now speaks "English in a new way" and is proud of it.

Mr Berry, who was once writer-in-residence at Vauxhall Manor School, South London, gave a spirited reading of the Creole version at the book's launch at the African Centre in Covent Garden the other day.

He was joined by several other poets whose work is featured in the book. Most of them were born in the Caribbean: Jamaica, (Mr Berry's home), Antigua, Montserrat, St Vincent and Barbados, although one or two were born here.

The book's title is a Jamaican term for an outsider, a man from another country or village who has come to settle in a new place. The man has blue feet from bruising as he walks barefoot along hot roads and railway tracks, with his belongings, looking for a new home. Even when he finds one and settles down, he is still known as the bluefoot man.

This is a revised edition of the first



"We'll have to stop calling ourselves Charles and Diana on the telephone."

Keltic fringe

In his Easter Break column, Gerald Haigh wrote somewhat facetiously about electronic bagpipes, a beast which he then considered mythical, if not downright impossible. Inevitably, he has been gleefully sent, by a Stockport teacher, a pamphlet advertising "Keltic" electronic bagpipes—"traditional sound, modern technology".

At least they're made in Glasgow and not in Taiwan.

In the same column Haigh said that Ian Little, Coventry cathedral organist, went to Truro Cathedral School. This he did, but the major part of his secondary schooling actually happened at Truro School, a Methodist former direct grant school. A letter from the head of the school, Derek Buttrell, also lays claim to Benjamin Luxton, the internationally famous baritone, and Robert Davison, composer of *Queen's*.

Next week

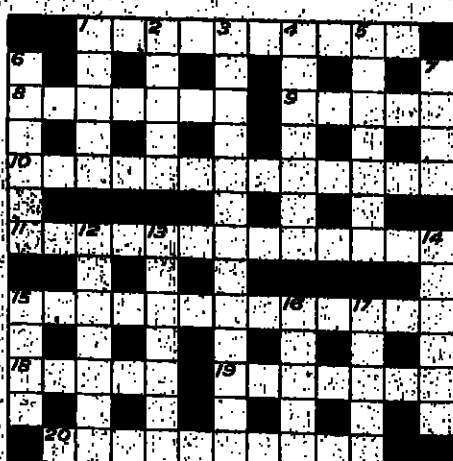
■ Sir Ashley Bramall, deposed last week by his own party, looks back on more than 10 years as leader of the ILEA, and forward to some of the troubles facing his successors.

■ Hilary Wince visits Aberdeen's international schools.

■ Marghanita Laski writes in praise of best-sellers. Geoffrey Parkinson recalls his motives for becoming a probation officer, and points out how little they differ from those which turn many people into his clients. (A. V.)

■ Halsey on deprivation: special reviews of books on social work.

Crossword No 1238



ACROSS

- Blown up by a pig child (4, 6)
- It has been blown of course (3, 4)
- Reduced cost, once in reverse (5)
- A walled position with (2, 4, 7)
- Concise (8, 5)
- Describe as a (6, 6)
- Knitting and developed the (6, 6)
- Is this the (7)
- Obviously they're not back up the tree (3, 7)

Solution to puzzle No 1237

DOWN

- A simple fellow looks up slowly (5)
- Boards like the place to reduce speed—and (8, 5)
- Crucial, at worrying (7)
- Depart with a full start (7)
- Get together now part political (6)
- Appropriately smoke (6, 6)
- Get from top to bottom (5)
- The shock of the United Nations (7)
- Water pipes through which water does not flow (7)
- He evidently does not like curving (6)
- Traditionally filled in February (4)
- Slept in bed and bring in a bit of money (3)
- One of these sets the pitch (5)

Mr Heseltine is now making it clear that as far as he is concerned, the result of the local elections makes no difference to the Government's determination to curb local spending. As is the custom at this time of year, the Department of the Environment has been checking up on local budgets and finds that authorities are on line to overspend by £900 million (or about 5½ per cent). The reliability of figures calculated at this stage in the financial year is always suspect. Previous experience has shown a tendency for the "overspend" to be overestimated: if it looks like being £900 million now, the final figures could well turn out to be considerably less if the normal pattern of expenditure is followed and authorities respond to the warnings which will now be given.

But will the normal pattern be followed? The sweeping changes which took place on May 7 are more likely to lead to an increase in spending than an access of frugality. Mr Heseltine, therefore, is confronted by two challenges to the policies for which he is responsible to Mrs Thatcher - overspending in present budgets, and the threat of yet more overspending from the new Labour shires.

Each of these is likely to evoke a sharp response. To the 5½ per cent budgeted overspend, will Mr Heseltine reply with a demand for additional cuts from all authorities - those who are prepared to go along with the Government policies as well as those who are not? The essence of the new financial arrangements is to be found in the estimates of Grant-Related Expenditure - the GREs - calculated for each local authority on the basis of all the services for which they are responsible, and intended to represent an external estimate of what needs to be spent to provide a "standard" level of service. The Rate Support Grant is shared out with reference to these GREs with penalty clauses for authorities whose spending exceeds the GREs by more than 10 per cent. Beyond this point, authorities lose grant and have to make up not only the excess of spending but also the loss of grant from the rates.

Authorities divide up between those which are in line with the GRE estimates or below them, and those whose levels of spending are above the



EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT
PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Tel 01-837 1234

Mr Heseltine prepares for another confrontation

limit, in some cases by well over 10 per cent. Logically if Mr Heseltine believes he is on the right lines, he should be pressing authorities like Lancashire, Hampshire, Dudley and Trafford, which are budgeted to spend less than their GRE figures, to increase their expenditure and raise the quality of their services to the standard level. (These, after all, are authorities which have cooperated with Labour and Conservative Governments and have been over-zealous in following restrictive policies decreed by successive Chancellors.) At the same time, he should concentrate all his punitive efforts on the areas which have a record of "overspending" going back over a number of years, and have (in theory, at least) the fat from which to cut. In specific cases like Sheffield and London, they have directly defied Government policy, pushing up the rates rather than cutting services.

The GRE system has already been compromised, however. Mr Heseltine saw early on that his stick and carrot would not be enough to restrain the committed over-spenders. He decided, therefore, to back up his new black grant formula with an old-fashioned curb on spending - telling each and every local authority it must get its spending down to 5.6 per cent below the 1978-79 level. This

was crude in the extreme. It made an attempt to force all the rhetoric behind the GRE. Authorities like Somerset and Kent, which are well inside their GRE targets and manifestly ought to spend more, are nevertheless overspenders by this standard.

Authorities which have exercised a rigorous parsimony since the mid-1970s and which had no excess to trim away in the chosen year of 1978-79, are now being treated to the same lesson in economics as those which fended off the evil day. This is not only manifestly unfair; it is also extremely inefficient. It means that cuts will have to be made regardless of the needs of the services which the authority is in business to provide. It is ordained by the Environment Secretary, across the board. Yet it affects how authorities carry out their duties which it is the Education Secretary's responsibility to enforce. He, in effect, has given up - how can he come down on authorities which fail to fulfil their obligations under the Education Acts, when the reason for their dereliction is a financial edict by his Cabinet colleague? Half the shire counties are budgeted to spend less on education than their GREs allow.

It now remains to be seen how Mr Heseltine seeks to enforce his predetermined cuts - will he

simply reiterate his call for a reduction in the cent below 1978-79, and thereby do what he has already done? Or will he try to work out yet another expedient which combines the object of an absolute cap on spending with the notion of GREs and selectively accepted levels of service? Mr Heseltine will like him to accept either the target 5.6 per cent below 1978-79 or the GRE level, and penalize those who exceeded both these limits. But the indications are that neither Heseltine puts the squeeze yet again on a range of authorities - including those which already made big cuts - he will have little chance of keeping spending within the Chancellor's limits.

As to the Environment Secretary's new, clearly stated intentions of new local controlled authorities to step up, rather than reduce spending, here there seems to be an alternative - nor should there be - to the grant formula to force such authorities to spend their money where their mouths are and to new electoral mandates with the consequent supplementary rate demands. This is what democracy means. Mr Heseltine (and Mr Thatcher) must not eliminate the local authorities' legal powers, or so curb their financial independence that their constitutional status is destroyed. But they can put them to the test: insist that local choices must be locally paid for, may be that in the course of time, this will be emphasized by reducing local authorities' power to tax voteless local industry, but this is an immediate prospect.

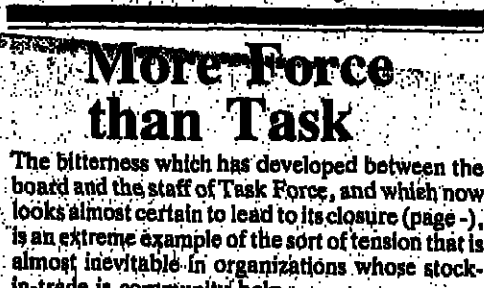
In all this, be it noted, the Secretary of State for Education, the man responsible for the largest local government service, is by no means a passive observer. He has a clear justification for the indefinite continuance of a system in which finance and policy are divorced in this way, which is good neither for local government, nor for the education service, and is leading to the deterioration of education's role in society.



Lord Swann

The importance of the topics to which the committee is directed is beyond dispute. But all along there has been the difficulty of separating the educational issues from those of the larger, social, economic, and political background. In a real sense which everyone can recognize, it is impossible to do justice to the educational issues in isolation. And yet, this is what a committee like this must somehow succeed in doing, if it is to be any use to anybody - broad, generalized, sentiments about socio-political questions will cut no ice with the government; they may even obscure more limited and specific proposals for positive action which the committee in its wisdom may seek to pass on.

Mr Rampton was on a hiding to nothing. He has duly got his hiding. Now it is Lord Swann's turn. He too will be lucky to emerge with his skin.



Anthony Rampton

More Force than Task
The bitterness which has developed between the board and the staff of Task Force, and which now looks almost certain to lead to its closure (page 1), is an extreme example of the sort of tension that is almost inevitable in organizations whose stock-in-trade is community help.

heyday, there were 15,000 volunteers and 90,000 visits were carried out in one year. Over the past few years, however, there has been increasing disputes between the board and the young staff who organize the work. What they should be doing. The staff have appeared much more disposed to complain about the conditions facing the elderly, and to organize old age pensioners to protest, than to help Task Force set up to provide a non-hierarchical collective with every one being paid the same and nobody telling them what to do. They won't give us any information and we don't know what is happening to the money we raised," he said.

Another Tory MP board member, Mr John Wheeler, said it was intolerable that an organization that was becoming increasingly anarchist should be able to operate under the banner of respectability provided by the board.

Mr Frank Field, the Labour MP and an avowed campaigner who joined the board at the staff's request two years ago, accused them of offering board members "only mistrust, venom and abuse," and of a preoccupation with their own ideas of activating the pensioners and of collective operation. He said: "It's happening to voluntary organizations all over the country."

Other voluntary and charitable organizations have been through similar battles with aims and methods, with the same sort of tension between traditional patrons and impatient activists, and it is in the nature of things that should happen. But it is a poor look-out for the future if such a noted protagonist for the poor as Mr Frank Field, MP, nominated to the Board of Task Force, seems to have been forced to resign.

Task Force was set up in 1964 to organize young volunteers to help the old and lonely in their homes, and was one of the first and largest such youth volunteer agencies in this country. Several generations of young people in schools have taken part in its work and benefited from it as much as the old people they helped. In its

Trips abroad complicated by race Bill

by Sarah Bayliss

Collective passports which are widely used by school parties travelling abroad, will become more complex for teachers to obtain after the new Nationality Bill becomes law.

The Bill, which some teachers' organizations have described as racially divisive, will remove a child's automatic right to citizenship if it is born here, after the child born after the Act, a British birth certificate - currently the basic evidence for a place on a group passport - will not be sufficient proof.

Local authority and school staff will also be drawn into another administrative complexity created by the Bill. The Home Office has said that school records will be a main source of information for establishing whether a child not born a citizen here will have the right to register as one.

Under pressure the Government has

amended the Bill, which is still in Parliamentary committee stage, to allow a foreign child to establish citizenship if residence can be proved for the first ten years of life. "School records would be of great significance," Mr Timothy Raison, a Home Office minister, told the standing committee on the Bill recently.

Both issues, collective passports and the use of school records, will be tackled next week at a meeting of six London boroughs called by Brent Council's race relations sub-committee and concerned about the Bill's implications.

Mrs Ann Duffell of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants said this week she was "extremely worried" about the Bill's implications for school travel abroad. The prospect of a foreign trip could bring into question - for the first time in a child's

life - whether or not it was British. At present collective passports are widely used on school trips since they cost just £11 and can take up to 50 names. A place is granted automatically to any child with British nationality.

But under the new Bill, in order to be born British a child has to have a father or mother who is a British citizen or is settled here under immigration law - and proof is required.

A day trip to France could involve detailed questions about a child's parents, said Mrs Duffell. "It is going to make some parents very scared because it will mean inquiring into their immigration status in this country."

A spokesman at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office which deals with passports, said this week that the Bill's implications for collective pas-

sports had not yet been dealt with by the ministry, but would be after the Bill became law.

Amendment 115 of the new Nationality Bill states that a foreign child can apply to register as a British citizen after it is ten years old. He or she must prove they have never been absent from the United Kingdom for more than 90 days in any one year.

"We think that normally it should be easy for them to establish this, in most cases from their schools and doctors or from other reliable witnesses," Mr Raison said earlier this year.

Mr Raison said: "School admission registers give the dates of a child's admission to school, the date that he or she left, and the details of any prolonged absences, and are kept for a considerable time."

Young people's help scheme for elderly 'taken over by anarchy'

by Mark Jackson

As agency which encourages school children to befriend old people is to close after claims by some board members that the staff are running it as an anarchist movement.

Two hundred thousand London pupils have visited or carried out practical tasks for pensioners through Task Force since it was set up in 1964. A charitable limited company, it gets three-quarters of its £500,000 a year income in grants from local authorities and the Home Office, and the rest from private donations.

At a meeting in the Commons this week, Mr Anthony Steen, the acting chairman, said that staff had been told that the company would cease to exist on July 31. The board could no longer go on raising funds without having any say in how the money was used, and when the staff spent most of their time on activities outside the charity's stated purpose.

The staff insist on operating as a non-hierarchical collective with every one being paid the same and nobody telling them what to do. They won't give us any information and we don't know what is happening to the money we raised," he said.

Another Tory MP board member, Mr John Wheeler, said it was intolerable that an organization that was becoming increasingly anarchist should be able to operate under the banner of respectability provided by the board.

Mr Frank Field, the Labour MP and an avowed campaigner who joined the board at the staff's request two years ago, accused them of offering board members "only mistrust, venom and abuse," and of a preoccupation with their own ideas of activating the pensioners and of collective operation. He said: "It's happening to voluntary organizations all over the country."

Other voluntary and charitable organizations have been through similar battles with aims and methods, with the same sort of tension between traditional patrons and impatient activists, and it is in the nature of things that should happen. But it is a poor look-out for the future if such a noted protagonist for the poor as Mr Frank Field, MP, nominated to the Board of Task Force, seems to have been forced to resign.

Task Force was set up in 1964 to organize young volunteers to help the old and lonely in their homes, and was one of the first and largest such youth volunteer agencies in this country. Several generations of young people in schools have taken part in its work and benefited from it as much as the old people they helped. In its

they're being increasingly taken over by community activists.

Mr Steen said that the only way the organization could continue - and it would have to be under a new board - was if the staff accepted a normal line structure under a director responsible to the board and with team leaders, running the 14 centres. Alternatively, they could run their centres as co-operatives, going to the local authorities separately for grants. The board would do all it could to help them retain equipment and assets.

Mr Steen admitted that the board had no evidence that the work with pupils had significantly decreased, because the staff would not supply figures; but they said they spent about a third of their time on schools and the rest on advice to pensioners and on working with neighbourhood groups.

The staff are mounting a campaign to get pensioners, trade unions and community organizations to press the board to change its mind. They claim that the board has broken agreements in its attempts to force a change in the present structure which had developed with the approval of its predecessors, and had ignored offers to negotiate on restructuring. The staff say that board members have not been bothering to visit the centres recently, and do not understand the reality of their work. They want the present board, and they say it is self-selecting and accountable to no one to hand over to a body which is prepared to accept election by a membership association made up of pensioners and others.

Task Force's 1980 report to ILEA describes its work in about 60 schools in some detail, but does not give the total number of pupils involved.

Statistical Bulletin 781 DES, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1.

Big grant cuts predicted for performance arts

Major reductions in discretionary grants towards students on dance and drama courses are on the way, says a survey by the Advisory Centre for Education.

ACE, which was commissioned to make the survey by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, says: "Although there are many individual instances of students facing hardship, and talented students being unable to take up places on courses in the performing arts, as there always have been, it would appear that the real crisis is round the corner in terms of massive reductions in discretionary grants generally."

Five of the 14 LEAs in England and Wales responded to the survey. Representatives of the dance and drama world met Mr Mark Carless, the Education Secretary, to discuss the implications.

Extra teachers to protect curriculum ruled out

by Bob Doe

The Government has scrapped the idea of extra teachers to cushion the effects on the curriculum of falling school rolls, a senior official at the Department of Education and Science revealed today.

In spending plans published in previous years, the Government allowed for several thousand extra teachers to offset the dislocations of scale caused by shrinking pupil numbers.

But this week Mr Walter Ulrich, deputy secretary at the DES told the Commons select committee looking into the secondary curriculum: "In the latest total planned teacher numbers there is no longer a figure which would be described as an operating margin. As a figure for discussion it has disappeared."

The committee chairman, Labour MP Christopher Price, asked if this meant no allowance had been made to cushion the effects of falling rolls in the latest public expenditure plans, which were published in March.

In reply, Mr Philip Halsey, under secretary in charge of the teachers' branch, read from the section of the White Paper which says: "Within the resources that can be afforded, the plans allow for the overall pupil-teacher ratio to remain constant throughout the period (1980/81 to 1983/84). This implies some tightening of staffing standards in the schools as they reduce in size and the balance of their pupil population shifts towards the older age groups."

The implication that the operating margin had been abandoned tended to be obscured by the statement that: "The Government have had regard to the need, as far as possible, to protect the curriculum, to sustain standards of staffing, in-service training and induction and the quality of teaching, and to ease the problems of the necessary contraction of the teacher force."

When that cushion has disappeared, is the DES concerned about the ability of local education authorities to fulfil their obligations under the law? Mr Price asked.

Mr Ulrich said: "We do not believe this tighter staffing reduces i.e.s. to the point where they have to break the law, but we do accept that this makes it more difficult to protect the curriculum."

The committee found it difficult to pin officials down on what would constitute a clear enough breach of the Education Act to make the Secretary of State step in.

No foreign language teaching in a school would not be sufficient, Mr Ulrich thought. "A school with no science or modern languages for any pupils, and not just because all the staff had been run over by a bus, could be a clear breach," he said, although it would depend on whether the school was the only one for miles or one of several in an urban area.

Mr Price asked: "We do not believe this tighter staffing reduces i.e.s. to the point where they have to break the law, but we do accept that this makes it more difficult to protect the curriculum."

When that cushion has disappeared, is the DES concerned about the ability of local education authorities to fulfil their obligations under the law? Mr Price asked.

Carlisle bids to ease effect of cuts

The prospect of severe punishment being meted out to local government for a projected overspending of £900m this year, has prompted Mr Mark Carlisle, the Education Secretary, to urge his Cabinet colleagues against a blanket penalty.

His efforts reflect serious concerns in the Department of Education about the likely effect of more cuts on some authorities. If a compromise is reached, up to 20 education authorities could be let off the hook.

In Cabinet committees this week and last, Mr Carlisle has pressed Mr Michael Heseltine, the Environment Secretary, not to penalize those authorities which, while overspending on the Government's volume target, have at least observed the spending controls implicit in the new block grant system of funding.

Mr Carlisle wants the authorities which are planning to spend within their Grant Related Expenditure assessments (GREs) to be exempt from punishment. The GREs indicate what, on paper, Whitehall thinks each authority should spend to provide a standard level of service, and are considered to be a "fairer test" by the DES than volume targets.

He has evidence that, at least before the county elections, nearly half the shires were planning to spend at or near their GREs this year. All were within the 10 per cent threshold permitted above GRE. Six out of 36 towns and cities are within their GREs, all the outer London boroughs and the Inner London Education Authority are above.

Mr Heseltine said earlier this year that local councils planning to spend 5.6 per cent less than they spent in 1978-79 would not be punished if there was total overspending. He is not likely to go back on this promise.

But by this test only two counties (Dorset and Northamptonshire) are on target. All but four cities are over. ILEA is slightly over and a dozen London boroughs are within.

Mr Heseltine is expected to make his penalty plans public on June 2 with a statement in the Commons followed by a meeting of the consultative council on local government finance. While not unsympathetic to using the GREs, he has said it might exempt too many authorities, making it impossible to recover the £900m overspend.

Living on a shoestring in the library

English secondary schools spent less than £1 per pupil on library books even before the present Government's spending cuts, according to a sample survey published this week by the DES.

The survey, made in March 1979, showed that only 2 per cent of secondary schools had no library at all, in the case of split-site schools, no library one of their sites. But 4 per cent of the schools with libraries never had them open and staffed by an adult and a further third kept their library open and staffed for less than 10 hours per week.

Shortage of staff and alternative use of the library may explain the short opening hours in many schools, says the DES. It found that more than half of the general libraries had some time set aside for non-library use and 18 per cent of general libraries were not in library use for more than 15 hours a week.

Comprehensive schools were more generous than selective schools in the amount of library space per pupil but less generous in the provision of study places. But pupils in 11-16 comprehensives fared worst of the lot in terms of both library space and study places. Only 5 per cent of the 11-16 schools covered by the survey had ten or more study places per 100 pupils.

In more than three quarters of the schools, the school librarian was a teacher with no professional library qualifications.

Comment

Two cheers for the MSC

The New Training Initiative promised by the Manpower Services Commission (page 10) is less precise and less bold than many had hoped, and than early drafts had suggested. It does not present a one-year traineeship, available for all school-leavers, as the clear and necessary replacement for the Youth Opportunities Programme.

The logic of such a one-year programme to remove a large fraction of the 16-17 age group from the labour market is implicit in what the Commission has to say about entry to work and pre-vocational preparation. But evidently the members of MSC had cold feet about a fully-elaborated one-year traineeship guarantee. They confine themselves to general statements about the objective: "We must move towards a position where all young people under the age of 18 have the opportunity either of continuing in full-time education or of entering training or a period of planned work experience covering work-related training and education." Apart from this there is a specific reference to significant developments in improved vocational preparation for young people. "In the Youth Opportunities Programme it is our intention, as resources permit, to work towards the point where every 16 and 17-year-old not in education or a job will have an opportunity for vocational preparation including training and further education. This year there will be a major expansion of the Programme. The present target is to provide 440,000 young people with opportunities in 1981-82... a programme of good quality preparation for work lasting up to as much as a year for those young people who need it."

At the same time the Unified Vocational Preparation programme is to be expanded to cover 20,000, a sixfold increase. The Initiative leaves open the question of how this and the other training improvements for which it calls are to be funded. In so far as most of what it prescribes for the early school leaver is a development of YOP, it envisages a continuation of the present system of stipends for YOP participants. It is fairly obvious that any large-scale increase in provision for young people depends on costs continuing to be divided between employers and the State. But how this should be done in a period in which ordinary paid employment for young people becomes more and

Exit Rampton, enter Swann

Mr Anthony Rampton's resignation as chairman of the Youth Opportunities Committee on the education of children of ethnic minorities has been accepted shortly before the publication of the committee's interim report. Mr Carlisle, evidently takes the view that a new chairman is needed to take the committee on to the next stage of its work. By appointing Lord Swann, he has chosen an experienced factotum who has the technique and intellectual force needed to see it through, but one who does not enjoy the benefit of Mr Rampton's special knowledge and insight.

It may be that Lord Swann will have more success in marshalling evidence and keeping the committee to its terms of reference, but, in an intensely sensitive field, his appointment may, in itself, be seen as a hostile and, unimpassioned act. The committee cannot operate without the goodwill of the relevant minority groups.

When the interim report is published, it may be easier to get an impression of the dimension which lies behind the change of chairmanship. It will certainly be combed for clues. It could well be that the chairman is blamed for shortcomings of the committee as a whole. It is said that it may require strengthening with other new members, and Mr Swann's hand may be seen in some of them.

Platform

Ashley Bramall became leader of the ILEA when Labour won control in 1970. Now ousted by his own party, he looks back down the bumpy road of progress

London's decade of change

A survey of 11 years of change in the ILEA must start with the authority as it was in 1970. In spite of a commitment to comprehensive education, it was highly selective. Not only were there some 70 grammar schools, but 300 places a year were taken in independent and direct grant schools. Schools with large sixth forms got the most staff. Heads of county secondary schools selected their pupils. Primary schools were strongly influenced by the demands of selection.

It was a high spending authority, but severely limited by the teacher quota imposed by the DES and the difficulty of retaining teachers in London. Spending was directed to areas such as educational technology to compensate for the teacher shortage.

Some of the criticisms of remoteness unjustly made in the recent discussions of ILEA's future were then justified. No one bothered to talk much to the boroughs. Parents were kept at arms' length, and there was little public consultation, or acknowledgement of London's developing multi-cultural character. The only bodies with whom the authority talked regularly were the teachers' associations.

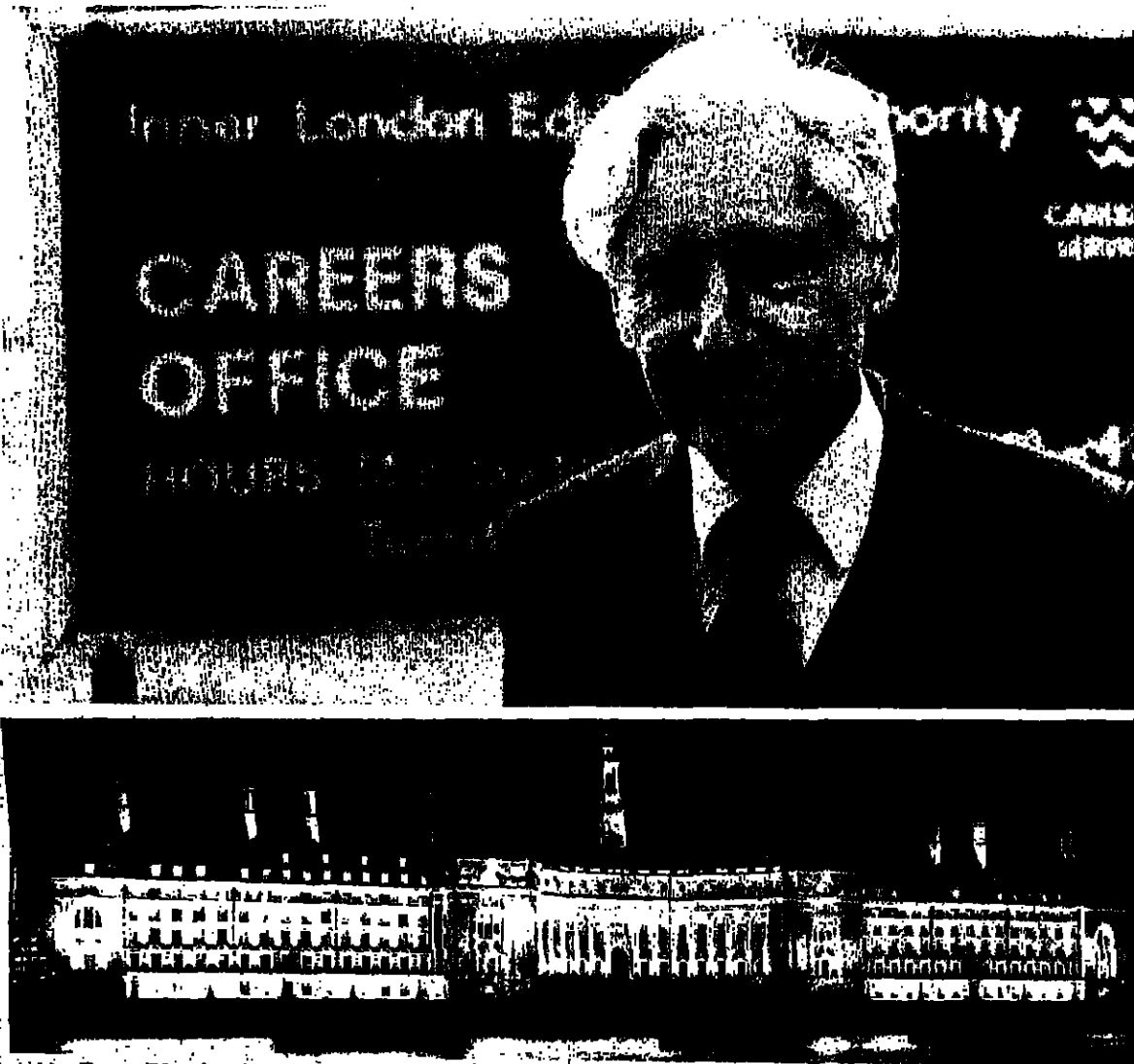
Educational achievement was variable. Booming numbers in secondary schools, an increasing staying-on rate, and the new CSE boosted examination achievement. At primary level there was a steadily falling average verbal reasoning score at 11, from 101.3 in 1965 to 94.5 in 1973. Teacher shortage combined with inequality of intake and the concentration of problems in the less favoured schools produced an atmosphere of uncertainty and violence. Corporal punishment was widely used.

In 1970 we immediately gave notice that we would take no more places in independent or direct grant schools. The ending of selection in maintained schools was an agonising process, involving two public consultation exercises, delays in the DES, and individual negotiations with some 45 voluntary governing bodies. Few with whom we consulted would recognise that the 1980s would be marked by rapidly falling rolls. In the early stages there was a conviction among senior officers and members that a comprehensive school must admit an eight-form entry, subsequently reduced to six for mixed and five for single-sex schools.

Three changes in 1974 made progress possible: a Labour Government, a building programme for reorganization and our decision to retain Highbury Hill High School as a three-form entry non-selective school in co-operation with Highbury Grove School, an established comprehensive school. This provided the opportunity for voluntary grammar schools to retain their identity as non-selective schools, linked with established comprehensives. In 1975 we announced that selection would end in 1977. Only three schools had gone independent, and two had chosen closure when, in September 1977, all schools opened their doors to children of all abilities.

Many of the schools which remained were too small, weak or unpopular to survive a decade of falling rolls. A second reorganization is dealing with this. At first there were demands to keep all schools open, but it was realized how difficult it would be to provide a full curriculum at numbers well below the minimum. Proposals for amalgamation, proposals for five divisions. In this process the independence of voluntary schools is seen as an obstacle to fair reorganization.

The ending of selection was backed by a new staffing policy tied to the size of the pupil roll, but with extra resources provided where educational and social problems made it desirable. Heads of county schools could no longer select pupils, and a new transfer



Ashley Bramall leaving the stewardship of ILEA to others in County Hall

system was based on parental choice, provided only that this did not prevent balanced intakes, which were arrived at by dividing children into three broad bands of ability. Priorities for admission are published and the whole system is monitored by teachers and members.

Further education went through its own form of comprehensive reorganization. Following the designation of five polytechnics, new colleges were created providing all levels of study from basic literacy to degree work. Teacher numbers improved after the Houghton pay settlement, but that has made finance a key issue. Under the Labour Government we went for a policy of "no growth", using savings as rolls fell to make improvements more directly related to need. We increased

to 1977, we began bringing parents and teachers on to governing bodies and increased the numbers in 1974. All parent governors are members of divisional parents' consultative committees and the ten chairman form a central consultative committee with leading authority members. Other consultative bodies have been set up with those responsible for voluntary schools and community relations councils.

The Flounders recommendation to abolish corporal punishment in primary schools was taken up immediately. We took the decision in late 1971 to abolish in January 1973, thus getting publicity over long before the event. That this decision had no harmful effect was shown by the commendation

working mothers can only properly be met by full-day care, which demands cooperation from borough councils, on which progress is depressingly slow. Other important growth areas have been in provision for music; the unified service for teaching English as a second language to 10 per cent of our children; the summer sixth form enrichment courses attended last year by some 2,300 young people; the Access courses in further education, preparing for degree or professional courses of people, mostly from minority ethnic groups, who have missed out on ordinary school opportunities; and the programme to develop sports facilities in inner London. There was also £2 million in the 1978 budget to allow provision to be made for the tiny minority of disruptive pupils.

Open contacts with the outside world were established early. A conference with the boroughs was held to joint machinery on social services, planning and recreation. Cooperation on selective provision is still inadequate, but progress has been made, particularly where joint appointments have been made of under-five co-ordinators.

In 1971 we began bringing parents and teachers on to governing bodies and increased the numbers in 1974. All parent governors are members of divisional parents' consultative committees and the ten chairman form a central consultative committee with leading authority members. Other consultative bodies have been set up with those responsible for voluntary schools and community relations councils.

The net result of these policies in terms of teacher-pupil ratios is an improvement in primary schools from 122.9 in 1972 to 116.9 in 1980, and in secondary schools from 1:15.5 in 1972 to 1:13.9 in 1980. Nursery education has continued to grow, but the needs of

in the HMI's report in 1980 on primary school progress in the last five years. We followed a similar course over secondary and special schools, taking at the end of 1979 decisions which came into effect in 1980 and 1981.

Two searching looks have been taken at the general health of schools. In 1976, after the bizarre William Tyndale affair, and after the HMI report in 1980. The former led to regular inspectorate reports on schools causing concern, a clearer appreciation of the power to overrule county school governors and a tightening of procedures for requiring teachers to improve their work. The latter, critical of shortcomings in secondary school teaching and inadequate management of resources, has indicated lines of development for in-service training. Both led to changes in the inspectorate. The primary inspectorate has been expanded; primary, secondary and special inspectors work in divisional teams, and now general responsibility for each school is to be exercised by a specialist in the phase with direct answerability to the appropriate staff inspector.

Primary schools have made an impressive recovery. The verbal reasoning score average now stands at 101.3, remarkably in an inner city area with London's problems. Secondary examination results give cause for concern, but we shall continue to see the products of a selective system until 1982 for O levels and 1984 for A levels.

What of unfinished business? The items which top my agenda are making all schools strong enough to offer a full and stable curriculum; development of a consensus on the future provision of comprehensive 16-19 education; implementation of the budget package relating to education for employment; urgent decisions on how education can truly serve a multi-cultural city; and carrying out the Warnock priorities already laid down by the authority.

Staying in step with modern music

by Richard Garner

Teachers face an uphill struggle to keep abreast of their pupils' knowledge of modern world of moog synthesizers, ethnic music and other forms of electronic music which is playing a bigger role in the classroom.

This emerged from a meeting last week in London called by the Council for Music Education Training, which meeting Mr M. Carlisle, the Education Secretary, discussed his concern over the future of music education because of the new and the recent High Court ruling that it is illegal to charge for instrumental tuition, which has led to some teachers facing the sack.

Two organizations said that music education needed more resources present instead of less, so teachers could have more in-service training keep up to date with changing musical music.

In a paper presented to the meeting Mr Peter Isherwood, chairman of the Music Advisers' National Association, argued: "If we are to succeed in creating a need for music education, it must have relevance to a child and allow it to develop its own musicality and personality and not just be a reflection of our own classical training and interests."

"However, how many of us are able to cope with and use to our advantage in the classroom, electronic, pop, ethnic music? This is another issue but it does highlight important issues in teacher training and in-service training.

"Both of these areas are threatened and yet the realities of our particular situation in music would indicate there is a strong case for more retraining."

Mr Isherwood argued that the present dilemma over fees in tuition could only be solved by legislation, arguing: "There are many of us who feel that a child has a right to kind of tuition especially where it is essential to self-fulfilment. Recognizing that legislation could express this point of view as well."

In another paper presented by the Incorporated Society of Musicians, it was stated: "So much is changing with the introduction of synthesizers, and other electronic equipment, much of which is understood and used with competence by the young, in contrast to the nervous and suspicious reaction of many of their teachers."

Mr Jack Dobbs, chairman of the UK Council for Music Education and Training, said that the life of the nation would be "much less healthy" as a result of financial cuts in music education, added: "Now is the time for us to say that music does matter. It is important. It is not peripheral."

"This said the Council had written to Mr Carlisle requesting a meeting because of its concern over the new saying: 'Music is essential to the life of the nation and to the life of its individual members.'

Mr Carlisle had replied saying: "The music education should play a part in the education of every child in primary and secondary schools." However, it was up to the individual local education authorities and schools to plan the level of provision in their own areas.

Music publishers want stiff penalties

A call for a reform of copyright legislation and stiffer penalties for those who infringe it was made by Ron White, the President of the Music Publishers' Association, at a conference last week.

This follows an independent report by the MPA for illicit photocopying of music sheets.

MCC president

The president of the English School Cricket Association, Mr Hubert B. Gars, said of King's School, Bournemouth, next president of MCC, "I have nominated last week at the annual general meeting."

Richard Garner on the NUT clampdown against rule-breakers and protesters

'Dissidents' face union wrath

The leadership of the National Union of Teachers this week stepped up its purge on union members who fail to toe the official line.

Sixty-five teachers at Alpertown High School, Brent, who staged a token one-hour picket outside their school on Tuesday morning in protest at a decision which is likely to mean six teachers on short-term contracts of up to a year losing their jobs have been told their action will be reported to the union's general secretary, Mr Fred Jarvis.

An attempt to get the teachers to call off the picket by the union's local executive member, Mr Malcolm Horne, failed but now the Brent association of the NUT has condemned the local council for throwing any teachers on short-term contracts out of a job. Mr Colin Adams, NUT representative at Alpertown High School, said: "They will be just as redundant as any permanently employed teacher who loses a job." The council says it will have to find places

for permanent staff to be redeployed before it can offer jobs to teachers on short-term contracts.

In East London, the local association of the NUT has been told it must make a payment of £200 to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament to help the organization prepare a pack for teachers on world peace and disarmament. The association, which has now deferred a decision on the payment, was told it would be "outside the aims and scope of the union".

In Lambeth, where six officers of the NUT association have already been suspended from union membership, there was an attempt to stop local members from holding elections this week to fill the vacancies. Acting president of the association Mr John East was told on Monday not to leave his school until a taxi had been despatched from Hamilton House - the union's headquarters - and a letter had been handed to him personally advising him not to go ahead with the elections at that night's meeting.

UGC will announce cuts next month

Individual universities will have to wait until the end of June before they know how much money they will have for the next academic year.

This is when they are to learn which of their departments, research programmes, or even whole faculties, have been earmarked by the University Grants Committee for closure, as it streamlines the university system to achieve Government-imposed cuts of over 11 per cent by 1984.

In a letter to university vice-chancellors, Dr Edward Parkes, UGC chairman, says the committee will also set student target numbers for each institution for 1983-4. And he warns universities to wait for those figures before finally offering firm places to students for next year.

This means that some candidates who have already got conditional or even firm offers of places may find themselves withdrawn as universities discover their fate. The course they were planning to take may die within three years.

However, the institution itself should survive. According to the letter, the UGC believes the cuts "can and should be achieved without the closure of any whole university", even though they are to be made selectively.

Dr Parkes's letter tacitly admits the committee's failure to make the Government give ground on its cuts target. It had hoped instead to extend the time scale from three to five years, to extract more money for redundancy payments, or to take some of the money intended for the public sector - but none of these concessions has been forthcoming.

The target stays at an 8½ per cent volume cut in grant for home students by 1984. Together with loss of income from overseas students, the committee expects the total loss to be at least 11 per cent.

Savings of this size will involve reducing the range of subjects taught at some universities and the closure or "radical reduction" of some depart-

ments, says the letter, with the likelihood of both academic and non-academic redundancies.

But the UGC makes it plain that it does not want all new developments to stop as a result. The £20 million allocated in this year's grant for remodelling the system should be spent on new appointments as well as contraction, says the letter.

The question of redundancy for university lecturers, most of whom have tenure, is still likely to prove the most expensive headache for universities. At a recent meeting of the Commons' Public Accounts Committee, Dr Parkes estimated that 3,000 academic jobs would have to go over the next three years, at a possible cost of £200 million in compensation.

The vice-chancellors' committee is already working on a redundancy scheme based on the Crombie Code used to compensate redundant lecturers during the run-down of teacher training in the 1970s.

Redundancy threat lifted

The threat of compulsory redundancy has been lifted from 60 teachers in Barking and deputy heads in Solihull.

Teachers were arranged between teachers' leaders and the Labour-controlled Barking and Dagenham Council last Thursday - just a few hours before the action committee of the National Union of Teachers was due to meet to discuss the results of a ballot of its members which was reported to be heavily in favour of striking.

In the event, the talks proved abortive when teachers' leaders walked out after discovering that a representative of the anti-strike Professional Association of Teachers had been invited to take part.

However, the following morning, Mr Dick Boland, from the NUT's action committee, contacted town hall officials and said the union was prepared to talk seriously with the authority. Just 20 minutes before the meeting was due to start, the union was telephoned and told the authority has lifted the threat of compulsory redundancy and was prepared to make the savings by natural wastage and promotion.

Twenty secondary school teachers have already opted for voluntary redundancy and the remaining jobs would be covered by natural wastage, redeployment and any further volunteers for permanent retirement.

In Solihull, the Conservative-controlled council announced this week that it had received 25 requests for voluntary redundancy from secondary school teachers during the past week.

Twenty of these would not be replaced with the result that the plan to sack a deputy head teacher in 17 secondary schools would not go ahead.

In addition, the council this week opted for all primary teachers aged 55 or above to retire, if they were prepared to accept premature retirement of the second stage of its redundancy plan - whereby up to 18 of the oldest primary school teachers would be made compulsorily redundant.

Mr Boland said that the council had decided to accept the offer of 25 teachers to retire, but that it was still considering the offer of 17 teachers to retire.



Louise Fitzgerald and Paul Worley at last weekend's Festival of Mime for deaf children at the Commonwealth Institute, Kensington, London.

Thatcher backs A level protest

Universities that refuse to accept A level design and technology as an entry qualification have been condemned by the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher.

In a letter to Mr Maldwyn Evans, head of design and technical studies at Orange Hill Junior and High School, in Epsom, Surrey, Mrs Thatcher says: "Some admission tutors continue to attach undue weight to traditional academic disciplines and are reluctant to give sufficient credit to the very demanding project work which forms part of the syllabus for A level design and technology."

Lord Williams's School, Thame

An extra night crept into the article about fund raising at Lord Williams's School in Oxfordshire last week. Parents, staff and friends of the school raised £2,000 a year, not £20,000.

The school's annual general meeting

What happens inside the Lambeth branch

Members of the Lambeth Association of the NUT faced a common problem: 10 minutes after this month's meeting started, they were still trying to find a willing hand to keep the minutes.

Then they set about their first motion calling on the union's action committee to levy teachers for a national campaign to stop the threat of compulsory redundancies to teachers in Barking and Dagenham.

Unfortunately, they had not heard that Barking and Dagenham had lifted its threat of compulsory redundancy the previous Friday, although the jobs were still to be lost through redeployment, natural wastage and early retirement.

The resolution was coupled with a call to attend a lobby in Dagenham the following evening when six teachers would be facing disciplinary proceedings after refusing to implement new timetables with official union backing and was passed unanimously. Mr Wendy Hewings, proposing it, said the union's strike fund "only has enough money to sustain us for 36 hours."

The next item was to elect a delegate to serve on the ILEA education committee. It turned out to be a typing error and should have read ILTA (Inner London Teachers' Association of the NUT) education committee. Disgruntled Tories might say "same thing". However, Lambeth would argue the ILTA was to the right of the ILEA.

During a dramatic debate, members considered replacing six officers suspended from membership for supporting the Lambeth day of action against the cuts.

Mr John East, the acting president of the association, said he had been instructed not to leave school until he had received a letter about the elections. When it eventually arrived, it contained advice from the union's new membership secretary, Mr Arthur Jarman, that after consultation with the union's senior solicitor, the elections should be deferred for a ballot of all Lambeth members.

The letter warned that by rule 5h of the union's rule book, elections should take place and this could not be superseded by Lambeth association's

own rules 7a and 7c. Mr East said that union headquarters had overlooked Lambeth's rule 6h which allowed elections to take place at a meeting when they became necessary in the middle of a year.

So the elections went ahead. All six officers were replaced with few abstentions.

A report back from the union's conference spoke of "Brother Porter's repulsive speech" (Mr Roy Porter, from Greenwich, was the delegate who had referred to NUT "mob rule" in Inner London which provoked an outcry and ultimately led to a delegate being asked to leave the conference). Mr John Bler, giving the report, said that the NUT president, Mr Jack Chambers, had "got himself into the classic teacher situation of issuing a threat to expel someone and then finding he had to do it".

During a debate about the Brixton riots, Mr East said that the local Trades Council had decided to boycott the Scarman inquiry because it would not go into the issues of "unemployment, housing, and racism of the police" which had led to the disturbances.

At the weekend of the union had decided to give evidence to the inquiry in consultation with the Inner London Teachers Association.

The Lambeth meeting passed a motion which condemned "continual police harassment in Brixton" and saying that "racist police action coupled with high unemployment and bad housing" had caused the riots.

It also called for a donation to the Brixton Defence Fund, all charges arising from the riot to be dropped and withdrawal of the "excessive" police presence in Brixton.

The last item stemmed from the suspension of Mr North but the meeting decided not to nominate a successor since the by-election had been declared by the NUT only at the weekend; schools had not had notice of the election. Instead, all candidates would be invited to attend another meeting before a nomination was made by the association.

About 50 teachers attended the meeting out of a potential turnout of around 1,400 teachers.

Saving on books is a 'false economy'

Local education authorities who cut spending on school books are making those they do buy more expensive, MPs were told on Tuesday.

"The result of having fewer copies is to increase unit costs with shorter runs," Mr Harry Myers of the British Printing Industries Federation, told an all-party meeting in the Commons. "Schools then complain about the price of books because they cannot afford enough."

He urged MPs to press local authorities to spend the money the Government intended for books - an extra 2 per cent in this year's rate support grant - or, failing that, to ask the Government to earmark the allocation for books within the grant.

Mr Myers and other representatives of the book production industry said the reduction in spending on school books was one of the chief reasons for the slump in British publishing.

Passport's sporting chance to boost funds

by Bert Lodge

School funds will benefit by more than £5m every year if each pupil in the country applies for a Passport to British Sport, a scheme launched on Tuesday by Prince Philip, on behalf of the Central Council for Physical Recreation of which he is president.

For £3 any one under 19 gets a navy blue "passport" similar to the authentic British one. It entitles the holder to holder to:

- insurance cover while travelling to, from or taking part in training for or watching any organized sporting activity;
- a chance to open a deposit account at any of the 3,200 branches of the National Westminster Bank, the first pound of which will be matched by £1 by Nat West;
- 30 per cent discount off a range of sports clothing (equipment will be introduced later);
- free admission to almost all this season's county cricket matches if accompanied by a paying adult (the CCPR hopes to extend this to football matches and all major sporting events).

Schools can benefit by applying en bloc. With applications by groups of

20 or more, 50p per passport will be refunded to the school or organizing group. This means a bonus of £500 to say, a 1000-pupil comprehensive if every boy and girl applies. With about 11 million young people in full-time education the scheme could release more than £5m into school or institutional funds.

The passport must be renewed annually. One of the conditions of the scheme is the council's right to withdraw it should the holder "demonstrate behaviour which is socially unacceptable."

Prince Philip said: "The most important function of the CCPR is to promote people's participation in sport. The passport scheme will encourage them to do it more cheaply."

Mr Peter Lawson, the CCPR secretary, said once passport holders were known they would be asked to tell the council which sports they were most interested in. "As the numbers build up we shall send them news letters devoted to particular sports. Altogether we shall be providing a framework in which young people who enjoy sport can be brought

together and feel they belong to a properly organized fan club."

The Football League had thought the scheme too difficult to administer for it to take part. "However, I shall be writing to every one of the 90 Football Association clubs asking them to join in," Mr Lawson said.

"If parental supervision can be reintroduced as an essential part of sport, specialising then the hooligan problem will recede and the troublemakers will be squeezed out of the system."

The insurance scheme is underwritten by the Norwich Union. Maximum compensation is £20,000 for "permanent total disablement lasting at least 52 weeks and preventing the holder ever undertaking any occupation."

Applications for passports must be accompanied by the £3 fee plus two passport photographs. The scheme will be operated by a new company, CCPR Enterprises, which is wholly owned by the CCPR. Profits will be donated to the CCPR, thus avoiding tax liability - to the CCPR sports charity, the Colson Trust.

Racism is provoking different reactions at a college and two schools: Diane Spencer reports

NF threat to left-wing teachers

The Young National Front has threatened to step up its campaign against left-wing teachers in retaliation for the students' picket of lectures by NF chairman, Mr Andrew Brons, at Harrogate Further Education College.

The YNF claims that it has encouraged its members to expose extreme left-wing teachers only when they have "proved to be flagrantly promoting their political views in the classroom."

Mr Brons, who has been teaching government, politics and law at the college for 11 years, says this kind of allegation could not be made against him. He has made no secret of his political views.

The college's principal, Mr Peter Drake, said although he was out of sympathy with the ideas of the NF, he had never heard that Mr Brons had failed to teach his subject with complete academic objectivity.

Mr David Aaronovitch, president of the National Union of Teachers, said his union would be calling on Mr Brons to resign his membership of the National Front in the interests of promoting racial harmony.

He failed to understand what the announcement by the YNF meant as they already published lists of left-wing teachers. As a result they were harassed

by NF members. Did it just mean that more bricks would be thrown through windows?

Last week the students resolved to start picketing Mr Brons's lectures peacefully. "We decided to take this action because of the dramatic escalation in racist attacks around the country," said a students union spokesman.

As chairman of the NF, Mr Brons is ultimately responsible for the violence his organization perpetrates. We felt it was vital to take a stand against it.

Students find it distasteful that if they want to do government and politics in this college they find it is taught by a Nazi. The students want to persuade the principal to get rid of Mr Brons.

Mr Brons said he was delighted with the publicity given to the NF by this incident. "The biggest injury is not to me but to the credibility of the Marxists in the student union," he said.

The students plan to picket again this week.

Mr Drake said: "I ask all those who wish to put pressure on me to sack Mr Brons to consider whether it is right for man or woman to be dismissed exclusively because of his or her political views are repugnant to the majority of

public opinion or the employer concerned."

"I believe in free speech although the views expressed are detestable; and I will defend that right vigorously."

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, assistant secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said although he condemned racism, it was essential to keep politics out of school. Racism had to be combatted outside school. There was a limit to what schools could do: they had to get on with teaching.

The National Union of Teachers said it was increasingly concerned about the activities of racist groups and its members were doing their best to educate children to be critical of their propaganda.

The union's legal department was available to protect members should the NF take any action against them although it could well be a matter for the police.

Mr Mick Farley, assistant secretary of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, said his association had condemned the NF and all other racist parties. His members would not be intimidated by threats. They already had guidelines on how to deal with racist problems.



Mr Andrew Brons, chairman of the National Front, is helped to his feet by police after being dragged to the ground during a students' picket of his lecture.

"We have a choice: ignore the problem or take a stand"

"We don't go around with Anti-Nazi League badges on our lapels, we keep a low profile," said the head of Quinton Kynaston school in north London.

"But I don't really see how you can run a comprehensive school with a mixed social and cultural intake without being explicit about your stance on racism to all children," said Mr Spinoza.

"If racism manifests itself in the school it undermines the learning of some of our children - it breeds insecurity."

About 14 per cent of Quinton Kynaston's 1,050 pupils are black or Asian and 37 first languages are spoken as well as English. Although the school is situated in suburban St John's Wood, its catchment area includes the poorer parts of Camden Town.

Mr Peter Mitchell, the head, and Mr George Spinoza, head of Holloway Boys' School, a few miles away, were praised in a report published last week for their stance against racism and the positive way they tackled it.

Nazis in the Playground, published by the Centre for Contemporary Studies, claimed that many schools preferred to "play down the incidence of racism in order to protect their reputations. Teachers, on the whole, were impervious to the threat posed by right-wing racists to their pupils," it said.

Both heads decided to take a firm line against racism more than two years ago when the National Front started campaigning in the area.

"It is important to talk about it openly - racism should not be a taboo subject," Mr Spinoza said.

More than half of the 1,130 pupils are of immigrant origin at Holloway Boys' School. There is a high proportion of West Indian and Asian pupils with Greek and Turkish Cypriots forming about 11 per cent of the total.

"What happens outside the school affects what happens inside; it is silly to believe it doesn't as schools are a microcosm of society," said Mr Spinoza.

At Quinton Kynaston, a teachers' working party drew up a policy on "racist behaviour" which has since been adopted by all the staff.

It says that racism is diametrically opposed to the school's aim of demonstrating that it regards all students as being of equal value, and should be positively resisted.

"It is important that everybody

associated with QK see the school's policy on racism as a natural part of its responsibilities as a comprehensive school," says the document.

Pupils must be able to study facts and ideas about race, culture and racism, and every staff member must be vigilant and report any racist behaviour immediately to the head or deputy.

Mr Spinoza at Holloway has issued similar instructions to his staff. He concludes by saying the attitude his school is taking is bound to attract hostility but "we have to make a choice: do we ignore the problem of racism and racist organizations and hope they will disappear, or do we as a multi-racial school take a principled stand against them? The same dilemma presented itself to the German people in the early 1930s and they took the

former course with disastrous consequences. We cannot afford to make a mistake."

The organization All London Teachers Against Racism and Politics, which began two years ago with a list of 2,500 in Central Hall, Westminster, confirms that many schools are reluctant to discuss the issue openly.

Mr Martin Francis, a primary teacher and the association's public officer, says they are trying to prevent racist incidents in school and he says they are dealing with it. (Reply to ALTARF c/o Lambeth Teacher Centre, Sandey Street, London SW9.)

ALTARF has recently published a handbook on teaching against racism in primary schools which complements one published last year for secondary schools.

Ruling soon over couple's fight to teach their children at home

by Chris Mowbray

A couple who have been fighting for more than 10 years for the right to educate their children themselves at home are to be told early next month whether they have won legal recognition.

Geoffrey and Iris Harrison have resisted all efforts by the Hereford and Worcester county education department to get their four children - Wanda, aged 18, Andrea, 17, Grant, 15, and Newall, 11 - to go to school. The children, who have all been diagnosed by a doctor as suffering from varying degrees of dyslexia, have received little or no formal education.

The couple have been trying to educate their children at their own smallholding at Rychford, near Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire. They have taught the children a wide variety of rural crafts and manual skills.

In January last year the couple were convicted by magistrates of failing to comply with attendance orders in respect of the three youngest children. When they appealed against the conviction at Worcester Crown Court last week, the judge reserved judgment until the first week in June.

In opening the appeal for the Harrisons, Lord Gifford said that in his opinion the whole issue revolved around section 36 of the 1944 Education Act which states that a child must receive education either by regular attendance at school "or otherwise."

The decision as to whether these children are receiving an efficient education is the decision of the court and not of the local authority. The law expressly preserves the parents' freedom for parents to decide their children's school, provided they are

securing for them an efficient organized education.

During the case the court heard that the children's formal academic abilities varied considerably. At one end of the scale Andrea could read and write quite well, while at the other Newall could not read or write at all.

All the children had learned a wide variety of other skills which included such things as baking bread, horticulture, rearing farm animals, building, plumbing, mechanics and welding.

Support for the Harrisons' way of education came from Dr James Hamming, an educational psychologist who said that the teaching methods used by the family had parallels in primary and secondary schools and that in his opinion the children were receiving a first class education.

Another supporter who also gave evidence was Dr Roland Melghan, a senior education lecturer at Birmingham University. He said that he was in touch with 20 families in the West Midlands who were trying to educate their own children and he considered the Harrisons to be one of the most successful.

However, Mr Trevor Jollis, an educational psychologist employed by the county council, said he believed that all the children would have had a 75 per cent chance of overcoming their reading and numeracy difficulties if they had gone to school.

He described the children as "well developed, well balanced and pleasant with practical skills." Mr and Mrs Harrison had been tremendously successful in building their social skills and confidence.



Mr Lee taking over.

Lecturers' president

An 11-plus failure, one-time labour officer, agricultural labourer, parliamentary candidate, building contractor and lead horn in the village band when not opening the bowling in the professional fortunes of a professional lecturer for a private college starting next week.

Mr Malcolm Lee, senior lecturer in the Doncaster Institute of Education, takes over as president of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education at their conference at Bourneville on the weekend.

Mr Lee was president of the Association of Teachers in Colleges and the Department of Education in 1974, spent much of the time as chairman of the working group that merged the association with the Association of Teachers' Technical College

BOOK ENDS-

SAVE 25% ON SELECTED NET BOOKS

Clearance sale of early learning books from Britain's leading educational suppliers.

Complete Set of A. Mazing Monsters

For very early readers, these 32 page pocket size books in full colour have a charm of their own. They are written by Jim Slater and illustrated by his son Christopher. Titles in the series:-

	Single units	Set of 25
The Tricky Troggle	K9996/080	K9996/081
Webfoot	K9999/080	K9999/081
Greeneye	M3401/080	M3401/081
The Great Gulper	K9997/080	K9997/081
Dimmo	M3402/080	M3402/081
Wormball	K9998/080	K9998/081
Bignose	M3403/080	M3403/081
Winkybird	M3400/080	M3400/081

Single copies 40p each net.

Class set of 25 of the same title - £7.50 net.

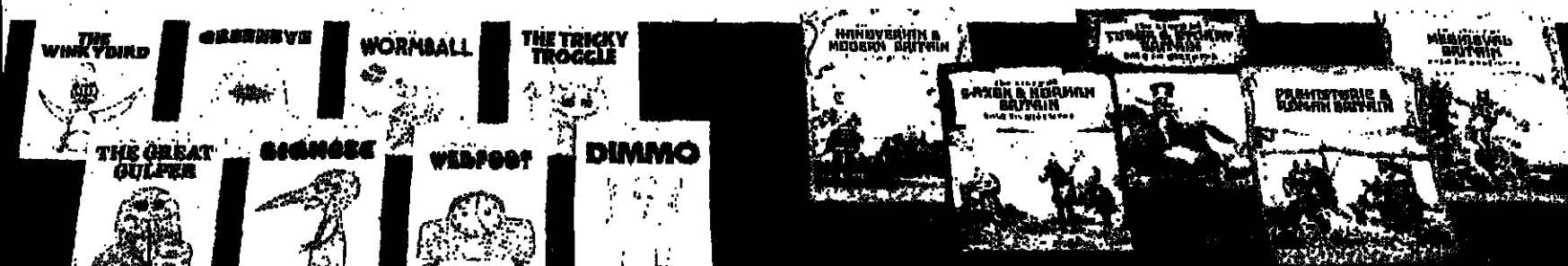
History in Pictures

Six favourite books from the Hestair Hope Library for young history students. Each book has between 450 and 600 line illustrations depicting important events and periods throughout Britain's History, narrated and shown in 64 pages.

	Single units	Set of 25
The Story of Prehistoric and Roman Britain	K9056/001	K9056/081
The Story of Saxon and Norman Britain	K9057/001	K9057/081
The Story of Mediaeval Britain	K9058/001	K9058/081
The Story of Tudor and Stuart Britain	K9059/001	K9059/081
The Story of Hanoverian and Modern Britain	K9060/001	K9060/081
Britains Story Told in Pictures	K9061/001	K9061/081

Single copies 60p each net.

Class set of 25 of the same title - £11.25 net.



Progressive Number Exercises

These books are designed for infant to lower junior age groups. The useful sets of exercises devised by Sheila Gallagher are clearly and colourfully illustrated. These books are 9" x 7 1/2" and are exclusively available from Hestair Hope.

	Single units	Set of 25
Weight Book 1 (revised series)	K9023/001	K9023/081
Weight Book 2 (revised series)	K9023/002	K9023/081
Length	K9110	K9110/081
Time (revised series)	K9017	K9017/081

Single copies 35p each net.

Class sets of 25 of the same title - £6.56 net.

Discovery Workbooks

Discovery Workbooks in History:-

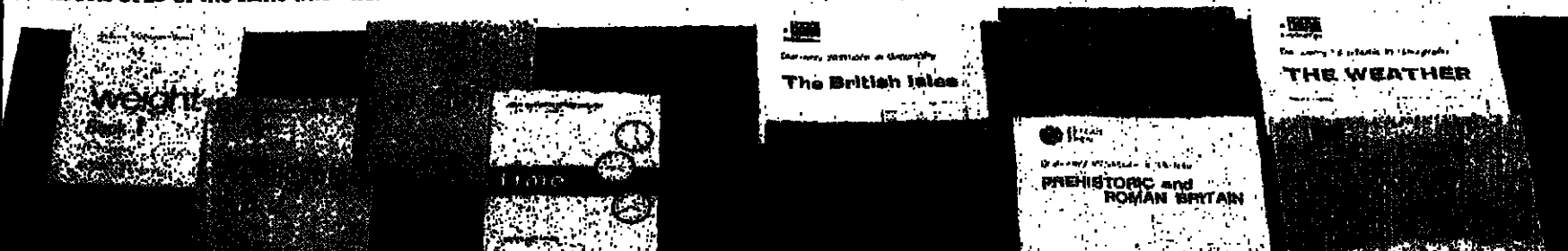
	Single unit	Set of 25
Tudor and Stuart Britain	K9055/000	K9055/081
Mediaeval Britain	K9054/000	K9054/081
Prehistoric and Roman Britain	K9052/000	K9052/081
Saxon and Norman Britain	K9053/000	K9053/081

Discovery Workbooks in Geography:-

	Single unit	Set of 25
The British Isles	K9048/000	K9048/081
The Weather	K9049/000	K9049/081

Single copies 25p each net.

Class set of 25 of the same title - £4.68 net.



See what good reading these prices make when you order by the set.



Everybody's Pocket Companion

This book is a handy reference book on more than 150 subjects from abbreviations to ZONE Times. Invaluable to both teacher and student. The book contains 84 pages packed with information and comes in a handy 5 1/2" x 4 1/2" pocket size.

Everybody's Pocket Companion. K9065/000 - 25p each.
Class set of 25. K9065/081 - £4.68.



Hestair Hope

Hestair Hope Limited, St. Philip's Drive, Royton, Oldham OL2 6AG. Tel: 061-652 1411. Telex: 666515.

USE THIS COMPLETE ADVERTISEMENT AS AN ORDER FORM AND TICK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES.

NAME _____

AUTHORITY _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

SIGNATURE _____

Parent appeals for more pupils in local newspaper Advert keeps school open

by Stephen Cohen

An advertising campaign by a governor of a small village primary school has staved off the school's closure and doubled the number of children on roll.

Cookhill First School, eight miles south of Redditch in Hereford and Worcester, was due to be closed down next month. It had only nine pupils and one teacher — the head, Mr Michael Ledbury.

Now, only a few weeks after advertisements in the local newspaper and a poster in a neighbouring village's general store, there are 19 children with two more due next week and another 28 waiting in the wings, in this case a private nursery unit which rents space in the school.

The adverts in the personal columns of *The Redditch Advertiser* were placed by Mrs Alma Matthews, the parents' representative on the school's governing body. They said: "Rising lives taken at Cookhill First School immediately. High educational standards. Children taken from any area" and went on to list two telephone numbers.

Mrs Matthews said this week that she wanted to keep the school open at least until her daughter left in 1982.

"The only way to increase the numbers was by advertising," she said. "We

were deluged with replies."

Mrs Matthews's campaign was started on her own initiative, Mr Ledbury said. "The local authority thought I was being unprofessional but I can assure you I've had no hand in it at all. I'm very proud that people feel like that about my school."

Closure has been deferred for a year during which time Mr Ledbury hopes to get his numbers up to 25 which he maintains would make the school viable. Last Friday there was a visit from the HMI who said she would be advising the Department of Education that circumstances at the school had now changed.

"I'm more than hopeful for the future," Mr Ledbury said.

Cookhill's renaissance has not affected neighbouring villages, he maintained. The new children had come from large Redditch schools which would not feel the loss.

The Cookhill campaign is not the only instance of advertising by small schools in the county. Leaflets have been circulated in Lea, three miles south-west of Ross-on-Wye, which are quite blunt in their criticism of other local schools.

Produced by a group of parents with children at Aston Ingham School, one and a half miles away, the leaflets say

the Lea school is poorly-housed, is on a busy main road, and that the head is near retirement. They claim that another school could lose its free bus which would involve children walking on a road where there was a fatal accident four years ago.

Complaints from Mr George Melhuish, the chairman of the Lea governors, soon brought an apology. Mr Melhuish said he was saddened that another school would make such remarks. "We are not poorly housed," he added, and the head was five years away from retirement.

Mr M. J. Gifford, the county chief education officer, said he deprecated the comments made by one school about another. "But it's out of our control what parents do," he said.

Mrs Matthews, however, disagrees. "If a school has something to offer, why shouldn't they advertise?"

The issue is worrying the National Association of Head Teachers. Next week at their annual conference in Blackpool, delegates will debate a resolution which deplores the use of advertising by schools in order to gain pupils from other districts.

Mr John Brooks, secretary of the Hereford branch of the NAHT, said there was a "chase" after children in the county. "There are clear cases of poaching," he said.



Helen Jordan finishes off a piece of pottery at Derby Lonsdale College, where she has just been awarded a special travel grant after a four-year course in ceramics. The course has been a particular success for Helen as she is partially sighted. In the final thesis, Pottery for the Partially Sighted, led her to Switzerland where she met Germaine Krauser, an ophthalmologist and amateur potter. Now, with her Day Legacy award to help with travelling expenses, Helen, 27, hopes to return to Switzerland and continue research into the problems of pottery for the partially sighted.

NUT disquiet over ballot on general teaching council

by Richard Garner

Teachers are to be asked to vote in a referendum to decide whether there is enough support for a general teaching council along the lines of the doctors' General Medical Council.

If there is enough backing, supporters of the campaign to set it up have been urged to press for the introduction of a Private Member's Bill in Parliament to bring it about.

This emerged from a weekend conference in London organized by the Campaign for the General Teaching Council and attended by about 50 people.

However, the new initiatives are already running into opposition from the biggest teachers' union, the National Union of Teachers, whose general secretary, Mr Fred Jarvis, claimed the group was "going behind the backs of existing associations" by planning to canvass schools through their head teachers.

Mr Robert Balchin, the chairman of the campaign, said that a general teaching council would have four aims: to keep a register of teachers, to define standards for admission to the register, to devise a code of conduct for teachers and to elect a disciplinary committee and to advise on teacher supply and advise colleges of the qualifications necessary for teachers.

He added: "In the autumn of this year, if we have enough finance by then, we are hoping to be able to write to every school in England and Wales to research the kind of support that would be needed for such a project."

Mr John Phillips, chairman of the Associated Examining Board and a barrister, told the conference the new council would have to stay out of negotiations on wages and conditions of service — which were the job of trade unions.

He said that if there were support, the campaign should keep a close eye

out for the MPs who were making the ballot which determines the priority to introduce a Private Member's Bill in the Commons and then select one who would be willing to introduce such a bill.

Mr James Miller, registrar and chief executive of the General Teaching Council for Scotland, which is already well established, said his council had 49 members — 25 teachers (11 primary, 11 secondary and three from further education — all of whom were elected), one lecturer from the staff of a further education college, four principals of colleges of further education, four representatives of Scottish universities, three directors of education, four education committee representatives, two church representatives (one Church of Scotland and one Catholic), two from institutions such as colleges of art and four representatives of the Secretary of State.

Mr Jarvis said after the conference: "It is an unwise way of going about testing support to canvass through headteachers. This is like going behind the backs of the teachers' associations."

Previous attempts to set up a General Teaching Council have failed because of disagreements among the teachers' unions over the number of seats they should have.

There was a crying need for a general teaching council for the education service as a whole, Mr John Sayer, vice-president of the Secondary Heads Association, said last week. He said that the idea of a teaching union in the narrow sense was being abolished with education reform. HMI, advisers, educational psychologists, non-teaching heads and FE and HE lecturers all playing their part in a full profession of education.

The union points out in a statement that further education has traditionally been the preserve of the state, not the market. If the DES feels unable to fund the development of microelectronics in further education there are other bodies which could, it says.

Even the scale of funding of the DES programme is inadequate and the failure of the Government to grasp the scale of the task awaiting it. The DES strategy of providing a range of courses for teachers identifies some of the problems but the low priority is given to the programme to put microelectronics in FE and HE courses.

It urges the committee to recognize that any problems in the education of children from minority groups are beyond schools and colleges to solve at work. There is a need to work in balance between the minority identity and the majority identity. The committee should be taking opportunities should be taken to improve the curriculum for the minority groups.

Bob Doe reports on how microcomputers help children with special needs

With the future at their fingertips

Children with special needs can have some of them met better by a computer than a teacher.

That is the belief of the microelectronics development team set up by the West Midlands borough of Walsall which has now been given £120,000 by the Government to develop further its ideas on computer-aided learning for handicapped and backward children.

Walsall is committed to microcomputers in a big way. More than a quarter of all its 3,000 teachers in primary, secondary and special schools have already been on in-service courses to introduce them to the computer and its language and to enable them to write their own computer programs.

After spending £40,000 on hardware last year there is one computer for every school in the borough, whether there are trained teachers to use it or not.

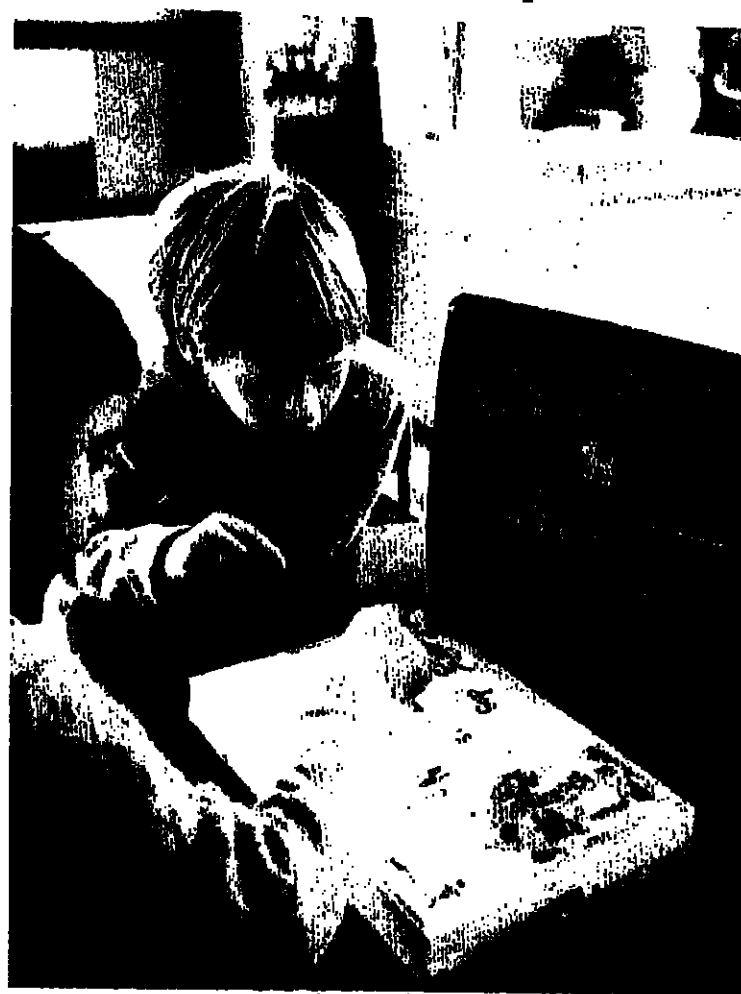
One school has a language lab style set-up with 15 computers all linked together — and one in the school office.

Virtually all of Walsall's ten special schools have one. In some schools whole staffs have been on the computer familiarization courses, including clerical staff.

Part of the development programme is concentrating on the administrative uses of microcomputers in schools. With a printer attached it can write letters or compile from computerized school records pupil lists based on such things as age, form, year groups, options, exam entries or results.

Introductory courses are usually two hours a week after school for five weeks. Each time one is announced about 250 teachers apply for the 16 places.

In-service training and the development of materials to use on the hardware have been simplified in Walsall by sticking to one brand of microcomputer throughout the borough. This stan-



Lessons at Walsall on the primary keyboard

dardization is the result of firm guidance and financial incentives.

The man with overall responsibility for Walsall's computer education efforts, Mr Martin Leonard, the borough's maths inspector, claims Walsall has one of the best in-service teacher training programmes in the country though he admits the development of sufficient software to use on the computers lags behind.

"Providing the hardware is one thing but software is tremendously expensive and time consuming. We could keep 20 or 30 programmers working here," he said.

In fact, Walsall's development team consists of nine teachers seconded for a few days each week to the development work.

Much of Walsall's expertise is home grown. Teachers who attended the first courses now teach others to use the computer and the result is that those working on new computer-aided learning packages do not lose sight of classroom realities.

"The most exciting area for curriculum development is for the child with special needs, particularly those with

physical or multiple handicaps," says Mr Leonard.

He has devised a program that enables the severely disabled to use a computer to write for them as long as they can activate a single light-pressure switch — if necessary by blowing down a tube.

The Walsall team is all from special, remedial, English as a second language, primary or computing backgrounds. "We expected to find marginal overlaps between some of these applications of computers but in fact find it is almost total," said Mr Leonard.

The overlap is particularly apparent in the language and number work. Among the areas being tackled are place value, reading skills and comprehension. The same animations used in electronic games can be powerful explaining aids or provide moving contextual clues to ensure pupils learn not only to read the words but grasp that what they are reading has meaning.

The team attaches great importance to the microcomputer's flexibility, consistency of response, recording and assessment abilities, instant feedback and capacity for interaction when dealing with such pupils.

They try to make their programs simple enough for any teacher to use and interesting enough to motivate the children to work on their own, so freeing the teacher for other classroom duties.

The computer's standard QWERTY keyboard can be daunting for the young or too intricate for the disabled, so a new "primary keyboard" has been developed by the Walsall team.

It consists of just 12 large pad switches. Each can be covered by a paper overlay bearing a picture or a word to enable the child to make simple responses to the computer's questions.

Far from dehumanizing the special classroom, the Walsall team hopes the computer can be harnessed to improve the quality of life of children with special needs by enabling them to communicate more easily, control their environment and join in some of the recreational activities enjoyed by the able bodied.

A conference for teachers, who know little about computers but would like to use them in their teaching, has been organized by Kiburn Polytechnic and the Brent Education Authority on July 2. Further details from Mr F. Daly, telephone 01-205 2517.

No job loss claim is disputed

by Richard Garner

Teachers who worked for a Liverpool hospital school have attacked their union's claim that it has avoided compulsory redundancies during the past year.

Nine teachers — eight of whom were members of the National Union of Teachers — lost their jobs at the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital School when it was threatened with closure last year.

Ironically, while they were working out their redundancy notices, the hospital — which was to have closed in two stages — earned a temporary reprieve. However, while most of them were offered alternative temporary one-month contracts without prejudice to their redundancy entitlements if they eventually lost their jobs, they rejected the offer.

The teachers lost their jobs in August and have now mostly been offered supply teaching posts with neighbouring local education authorities. One of them, Mrs Christine McGrew, said: "When the nine members of staff were sacked, the school continued with a reduced staff. Classes were consequently larger and teacher-pupil ratios unfavourably altered."

She took exception to a statement made by Mr Fred Jarvis, the general secretary of the NUT, both at the union's annual conference and in an interview with *The TES*, that no teachers had been made compulsorily redundant during the past year.

A spokesman for the NUT said: "Mr Jarvis was referring to teachers in primary and secondary schools in the mainstream of education."

Mr Joe Heaslip, regional official of the union, who dealt with the cases, added: "The Liverpool Children's Hospital School is a private school. Although it is run by a trust, it operates as a business and — when a business closes down — there is very little you can do about it."

"As a result of terrific local lobby in which the NUT locally played a part, Dr Gerard Vaughan, the Health Minister, eventually said that the hospital would not close."

"The employers at that stage wrote to the teachers asking them if they would wish to consider posts within the school but, if you take somebody's job away in August, it's not surprising if they say no if you offer it back the following January or February."

Key to complete education

Every school leaver should have a fourth R — keyboard literacy — according to the 63-strong group of Conservative members of the European parliament who want minimum education standards laid down for all children in Europe.

The Tory Euro MPs want more computer-aided learning in schools and say Community funds should be used to provide the software for these computerized Euro-lessons and the retraining of teachers that would be required.

Their *Micro-electronics Europe switch on* — on how to compete with the Americans and Japanese in microelectronics was published last week.

In it they call for a new European Institute of Technology to concentrate high level research and teaching in the field.

They say the £9m over four years provided to fund the DES microelectronics education programme (MEP) is aimed only at schools. Similarly the £4m scheme announced last month by the Department of Industry to put microcomputers in schools ignores the further education sector.

Last Saturday the executive of the teachers' union, NATFHE, passed a resolution condemning "the effective abolition of the further education system" from both the DES and Department of Industry programmes.

The union points out in a statement that further education has traditionally been the preserve of the state, not the market. If the DES feels unable to fund the development of microelectronics in further education there are other bodies which could, it says.

Even the scale of funding of the MEP programme is inadequate and the failure of the Government to grasp the scale of the task awaiting it. The DES strategy of providing a range of courses for teachers identifies some of the problems but the low priority is given to the programme to put microelectronics in FE and HE courses.

Mrs Rosenberg can be contacted at the Joint Committee for Refugees from Vietnam, Heppur House, Marsham Street, London, SW1.

In British schools they estimate 30,000 teachers need to be trained to use the computer as a teaching tool. The shortage of suitably qualified staff was "a major obstacle."

To get more teachers with computing and electronics experience they suggest:

- school computer centres in every town
- industrialists training existing teachers in computing and electronics at night schools
- retired engineers working as part-time teachers
- full pay for redundant industrialists who retain as teachers

Micro-electronics — can Europe switch on? obtainable free from the European Democratic Group, 32 Smith Square, London SW1.

Truancy is a major social problem which cannot be swept under the carpet, Mr Mark Carlisle, the Education Secretary, told the annual conference of the chief education social workers in Llandudno this week.

He estimated that about 90,000 secondary school children were absent on any one day without a reasonable explanation. Although "hard" core truancy had not got worse in recent years, there was no real sign of improvement.

Mr Carlisle was concerned at the number of children absent with the consent of their parents. He asked delegates how parental interest in education could be increased.

Special fund for teaching refugees

The Home Office is funding a nine-month project to help adult Vietnamese refugees learn English, Mr Denis Peach, junior minister in charge of the community programmes and equal opportunities department of the Home Office, announced this week.

The project will be co-ordinated by Mrs Sheila Rosenberg who has six regional training officers, all experts in teaching English as a second language, to help her. The team will be available to train tutors and volunteers in ESL techniques suitable for teaching the Vietnamese.

Mrs Rosenberg can be contacted at the Joint Committee for Refugees from Vietnam, Heppur House, Marsham Street, London, SW1.

Need to involve truants' parents

Truancy is a major social problem which cannot be swept under the carpet, Mr Mark Carlisle, the Education Secretary, told the annual conference of the chief education social workers in Llandudno this week.

He estimated that about 90,000 secondary school children were absent on any one day without a reasonable explanation. Although "hard" core truancy had not got worse in recent years, there was no real sign of improvement.

Mr Carlisle was concerned at the number of children absent with the consent of their parents. He asked delegates how parental interest in education could be increased.

FRANCE 82

Begin planning now! Send for our new advance information leaflet with details of our expanding '82 programme.

- New centres all over provincial France.
- More hotels in and around Paris.
- A unique new deal exclusive to Schools Abroad — a hotel chain with modern hotels and excellent facilities which just take one coach group.
- Expanded arrangements with well-known VVF centres — another Schools Abroad exclusive.
- IN FRANCE — our new lavishly illustrated project and environmental study book with a free copy for each pupil.

Special reductions for groups booking before 31st July 1981.

Schools Abroad Group

Grosvenor Hall, Bolnisi Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 4BX
Telephone: Reservations—Haywards Heath (0444) 59011
All other calls—Haywards Heath (0444) 414122

Third World unit

Oxfordshire schools are to be encouraged to teach about the Third World and a unit has been set up at Oxford Polytechnic to coordinate and promote development education throughout the county.

A recent survey of all Oxfordshire schools showed that while many primary and middle schools do not teach about the Third World, teachers would often like to do so. Many secondary school staff also do not teach about development issues because of exam constraints.

Mrs Crosbie back

Sacked Nottinghamshire primary teacher Mrs Ellen Crosbie will return to work on June 1.

She has been appointed to Huntingdon Infants' School after talks between the new Labour leaders of the county council and the National Union of Teachers on Monday night. She had been sacked for refusing to teach a class she considered oversized.

'Special access' urged for minority groups

by Mark Jackson

The Commission for Racial Equality is to call for special "access" courses for ethnic minorities covering a wide range of professional studies. They are likely to include law, accountancy and engineering.

The commission's intentions have been reported to the Rampton committee on minority group education by the Further Education Unit. The unit

agrees with the commission's view that it is no longer enough to run schemes for a few professions such as teaching, youth work and social work, where jobs are decreasing.

"But it warns the committee against dropping the standard of final qualifications for students."

It urges the committee to recognize that any problems in the education of children from minority groups are beyond schools and colleges to solve at work. There is a need to work in balance between the minority identity and the majority identity. The committee should be taking opportunities should be taken to improve the curriculum for the minority groups.

EUROPE 82

Begin planning now! Send for our new advance information leaflet

- A wide selection of air and coach tours to Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Portugal, Holland, Germany, Austria, Russia, Belgium and Spain; Bargebreaks and Campbreaks in the UK.
- More tours by air and coach to French-speaking Switzerland with new excursions.
- New centres, hotels and excursions in the Rhineland.
- A new selection of centres, hotels and tours to Italy and Scandinavia.
- Details of our recently completed project and environmental study books 'Classical and Modern Greece' and 'Italy down the Ages' with a free copy for each pupil.

Special reductions for groups booking before 31st July 1981.

Schools Abroad Group

Grosvenor Hall, Bolnisi Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 4BX
Telephone: Reservations—Haywards Heath (0444) 59011
All other calls—Haywards Heath (0444) 414122

School to work

Plan to modernize training

The Government will rely on employers and unions - with some help from the education service - to modernize and liberalize training voluntarily. Its hopes are set out in a consultative document *A New Training Initiative*, published this week by the Manpower Services Commission.

Sponsored jointly by the Employment and Education Secretaries, the document replaces the controversial plan for action, described in *The TES* last November, which the TUC and the CBI refused to agree. The last of four versions, it has been written mainly by Mr Geoffrey Holland, the MSC's director of special programmes for the unemployed.

This week's paper sets out three objectives:

- skills training to agreed standards for young people entering at different ages and with varying educational attainments;
- moving towards a position where all under-18s get a chance to stay in full-time education, enter training, or have work experience combined with work related training and education;
- widespread opportunities for adults to acquire, increase, or update their skills.

"There is a compelling need for a training system which enables all workers to acquire a basic range of skills and to develop and adapt them through their working lives," the paper says. This means that employers and unions have to agree standards which everyone will accept; that there must be opportunities for those who stay at school or college until they are 18 or 19 to enter training and related further education, and for older people to get similar opportunities based on their experience and the skills they already have.

TUC gets grant to train shop stewards

The Department of Education and Science has offered the TUC £1.84 million towards the cost of trade union education and training next year. It may provide further money to enable the unions to extend their training activities.

A grant has been paid to the unions since 1976 to help pay for courses for shop stewards and other representatives in industrial relations and health and safety. Four out of five of them study on day-release courses sponsored by the TUC at further education colleges. The number studying has

The paper does not specifically mention the sweeping away of age barriers to apprenticeship or the end of time serving, and pays repeated tribute to apprenticeship.

All young people at school, at work or in further education must acquire the skills and knowledge to apply to practical problems says the paper. It suggests that schools and colleges can do more and need to emphasize their role in providing this foundation, but says that many work skills are best acquired at work. "It is not a question of choosing... a continuous process is needed, starting for all young people, in school or full time education and leading for all to work."

To provide a basis on which such provision can "eventually be built" the Manpower Services Commission will plan and develop its Youth Opportunities Programme together with the current Unified Vocational Preparation Programme which by 1983/4, it says, will cover 20,000 young people in employment.

The paper as published drops a proposal in the earlier draft to offer all levels a one-year traineeship by 1990. Instead, it questions whether either side of industry would be willing to see young employees paid a trainee allowance rather than a wage. But it suggests that they might reasonably be paid at lower rates, as are apprentices.

The paper leaves open the question of who should pay for the significant increase in training envisaged, and says that while employers should remain a major contributor if they benefit, the public also benefits. As to organization, it insists that the main instrument for change must be collective agreements at sector and company level, with the support of statutory and voluntary training bodies. But some form of



Mr Geoffrey Holland

local organization is required also and it suggests that this might be new machinery linked to the local education authorities.

The paper looks at arguments for and against legislation to enforce its proposals, including the possibility of a statutory duty on employers to provide vocational preparation. But it says that there would be little point in trying to compel industry to meet requirements it regards as unworkable.

The commission indicates that it is planning to use its apprentice grants to induce industry to start relaxing apprenticeship age limits. It will ask the Government to increase the number of grants for first year training, but make them conditional on agreements between employers and unions to move towards its objectives.

Students on TUC sponsored courses at colleges

Courses:	1976/77	1977/78	1978/79	1979/80
Basic	10,917	14,047	13,421	15,701
Follow-on	2,532	3,034	3,074	4,542
Health and safety	7,803	10,598	27,361	18,738
	21,312	27,679	43,856	38,981

TUC General Council Report, 1980 and Hansard

nearly doubled since 1976 and last year's grant was £1.67 million.

Mr Neil Macfarlane, the Education Under Secretary, in answer to Mr Michael Brotherton, Conservative MP

for Lough, says the DES Inspectorate inspects the courses as part of their normal duties, and that one-third of the colleges offering them were visited during a survey two years ago.

Doubts about 'service away'

A report prepared for the Manpower Services Commission criticizes the programme which has pioneered residential community service for the young unemployed - "service away from home".

It says it is expensive and may hamper youngsters' attempts to get permanent jobs.

The scheme was launched nearly two years ago for the Youth Opportunities Programme by Community Service Volunteers, the voluntary organization whose leaders have played a prominent part in the campaign to get the Government to bring in a national scheme of community service. An influential wing of the pressure group is advocating that all youngsters should be sent away to do their service.

The report, which was prepared by the Department of Industrial Relations and Manpower Studies at Cardiff University College, covers the first 15 months of the CSV programme. It says:

- There is doubt whether the scheme justifies the extra cost of accommodation and administration because most of the kinds of service could have been provided nearer home.
- There was little evidence of a big demand from youngsters for the

scheme - it did not reach its original target numbers until last autumn's big surge in unemployment.

- The organizers were often unable to make good their promise that voluntary helpers would be available to befriended and support youngsters away from their families for the first time - although they had made this a key element in the scheme.
- The administration was centralized, and remote.
- There was no evidence that the experience increased the mobility of the participants in job seeking afterwards, and it tended to cut them off from information about jobs near home.

But the researchers say they were impressed by the gain in self-confidence shown by many of those they interviewed and thought that this form of service could play a valuable part in the personal development of some youngsters.

Community Service Volunteers said this week that the scheme was launched with a target of 100, but did not reach this figure until this February. "It takes a long time to establish," said a spokesman.

About 220 youngsters have been in the scheme, and the Manpower Ser-

vices Commission has now agreed to provide the money for it to continue with an increase in the number of places to 150. Together with non-residential schemes, it will mean that CSV projects are providing community service for 2,000 YOP youngsters.

Mr Bill Garland, who runs CSV's YOP activities, says that service away from home has been costing the taxpayer about £200 a week, as compared with an average £40 a week for other YOP community service. "There had been difficulties in getting suitable voluntary helpers to support the youngsters," and he thought it was better to let them find their own support from among the adults with whom they worked or lived.

The Cardiff researchers, said Mr Garland, had only studied a "small sample of the projects and the youngsters, and were wrong in thinking that the careers service had not kept up contact with them."

Nevertheless, he said, CSV did not consider that their reports suggested in any way that the scheme had failed, and he understood that in the end the Cardiff team had recommended that the commission should continue to fund the programme.

University grants cut condemned, but one-day strike call is rejected

by Bert Lodge

A call for a one-day national education strike was made to the summer conference of the Association of University Teachers in Cardiff last weekend.

It was rejected, partly on the advice of Mr Lawrence Sapper, general secretary. But few other counsels of moderation from Mr Sapper and his executive gained acceptance. Instead, after a debate lasting more than four hours, delegates instructed their executive to draw up plans for industrial action including the possibility of short, selective strikes. Any attempts to make AUT members redundant would be met with total resistance, they said.

Delegates were alarmed and angry at the recent announcement that the money the Government gives them, via the University Grants Committee, would be cut by 3½ per cent next year, rising to 8½ per cent over three years. Combined with the loss of income from fewer overseas students, the cuts will amount to about 15 per cent.

In human terms, this means 5,000 academic jobs must disappear in the next three years, only 2,000 of them by natural wastage.

Speaker after speaker condemned the University Grants Committee which already has hinted that selective cuts were being considered which would close a faculty or a department here and there.

"If the committee is supposed to be a buffer between the universities and the Government, then Ostling was a buffer between the Nazis and the Norwegians," said Mr Joseph Taylor, Sussex University.

Members of the committee should resign if they could not prevent it acting as the Government's agents, *de facto*, in the destruction of the British university system, the conference resolved.

Cardiff delegates argued that because a national educational strike would affect nearly everybody, it would get publicity for their campaign. But Mr Sapper told the conference that the TUC had just begun to form an "educational alliance" (a reference to meetings held recently under the aegis of the TUC between its two biggest teacher unions, the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers).

"It's just getting off the ground. With their different structures it takes time. To go into this with a strike would wreck the whole thing."

Mr Sapper's advice was accepted, but not the presentation by him and

members of the executive of a series of measures which would achieve the necessary savings of £80 to £100 million in universities next year without making anybody redundant.

These included freezing of voluntary early retirement, transferring up to one-third of the same equipment grant to recurrent expenditure and the cutting of non-research spending by at least 10 per cent in each institution.

Of these, only early retirement was accepted by the conference. The remainder of the motion was rejected by 105 votes for and 131 against.

Defeat was embarrassing for the executive as it had already put the proposals to the University Grants Committee. Mr Sapper said a new motion would be going out this week with UGC withdrawing the plan.

Professor William Wallace, Glasgow, a member of the executive, said that nobody liked the proposals, but they were a necessary evil. "This is an attempt to avoid redundancies which we're finding the time to fight."

He pointed out that numbers of 18-year-olds and those among them qualified to enter higher education would reach a peak over the next two or three years. The percentage of women students and mature students was also rising. "By 1984 there may be as many as 60,000 people who have failed to get into higher education as a result of Government policies. This will be an awkward fact for them seeing the general election cannot be later than 1984."

If the UGC tried to implement a scheme which involved redundancies, he wanted delegates to indicate whether they would be prepared to resign in July or August to a special conference to decide what to do.

Clearly disappointed at the rejection of the executive proposals and the instruction to prepare for industrial action, including strikes, Mr Sapper pointed out that it still meant only that a small committee would have to draw up plans.

"We did it once before, over 50 years ago. But no one was listening - the UGC? The schoolmasters? The Government? Nobody was listening. Nobody was listening."

"If I am coming out on strike, I want to know what my demands are - what cuts, mitigate cuts or what? We also have to ask what is the measure of support among our membership."

Sixth-form plans help bring unions closer together

Closer links are to be forged between unions representing teachers and college lecturers as the wake of the proposals by two of the largest local education authorities in the country to scrap their entire school sixth-forms and opt for sixth-form colleges instead.

Leaders of the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education believe they should bury any differences they have to protect their members over the introduction of the new systems - as presently advocated in both Birmingham and Manchester.

Mr Jack Chambers, president of the NUT, would like to see the introduction of a new federated system for all teachers' unions which would bring them all under the same umbrella. "The first opportunity the unions will have to see whether they can close ranks to provide a more united front

will be over the introduction of the new sixth-form colleges.

Already, the NUT and NATFHE have a joint partnership agreement which allows NUT members to transfer to NATFHE if they are teaching in tertiary colleges. But the plans for sixth-form colleges are likely to be started under schools' regulations and leaders of the NUT believe that

expertise in the sixth-form colleges will be necessary during negotiations with the aim of moving the two unions closer together on this issue.

At present, the local authorities have shelved the issue of how lecturers in the new sixth-form colleges will be paid and what their conditions of service will be - saying that they will leave any decisions until they have had negotiations with the unions.

Part-time school for jobless

A plan for schools to allow pupils to attend part-time to help solve the growing unemployment problem among Britain's 16 to 19-year-olds was made this week by Mr Jack Chambers, president of the National Union of Teachers.

Speaking to a conference on voca-

tional preparation at the union's residential centre at Stoke Rochford, Lincolnshire, he said: "We have to be seeing the young unemployed as a special category and see them as a whole - the entire 16 to 19 age group which should be taken off the main market and regarded as children in training."

YOUR BRAINWAVE.



A chance to make it work!

When was the last time you had a really good idea; a brainwave for a product that could help you in teaching and - properly developed - could help thousands of other teachers and their classes?

This is your chance to do something about it.

Trophy and Certificates

A handsome trophy and certificate will be awarded to the overall winner. In addition, each category winner and runner-up will be presented with a framed certificate as a permanent reminder of their achievement.

A competition for teachers

You will have seen many competitions for students, but this one is designed for you, the teacher. It is an opportunity to prove that your ideas work. The categories are:-

- Music
- Aids for the handicapped
- Craft
- Mathematics
- Science
- Environmental studies
- Pre-school

Cash rewards for you and your school

There are seven categories to enter, with cash prizes of over £6,000 to be shared by the winners and their schools. The outright Brainwave winner and school will share £1,500.

£6,000 IN PRIZES

will be presented in

The Brainwave Awards 1981

sponsored by Hestair Hope Limited and The Times Educational Supplement



In every classroom?

If your brainwave is commercially viable, there is every chance that you will be able to see it produced and marketed by Hestair Hope Ltd. Naturally, you would benefit by the royalties.

£6,000 IN PRIZES will be presented in THE BRAINWAVE AWARDS... 1981 sponsored by Hestair Hope Limited and The Times Educational Supplement.

Entry forms are available from Hestair Hope Limited, St. Philip's Drive, Royton, Oldham OL2 6AG. 061-652 1411. The closing date for entries is 30th September 1981.

EEC/Rory Watson

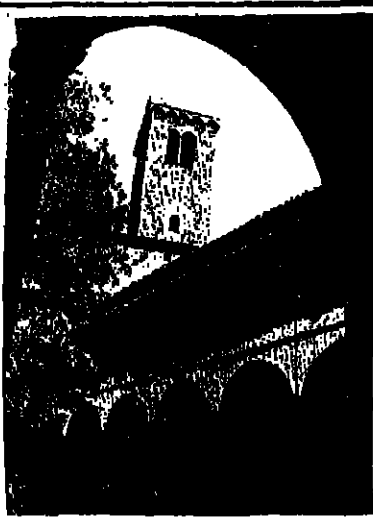
Florence funds criticized

STRASBOURG: Plans to inject EEC funds into the European University Institute in Florence have been sharply criticized by British Labour Euro MP for Glasgow, Ms Janey Buchan.

Britain makes a contribution of more than £600,000 a year to the university, which at present has just two British students, she pointed out, contrasting this with education cuts within Britain. The facilities at the institute, which first opened its doors to postgraduate students from EEC countries in 1976, would be the envy of any college in Britain, she said.

For 120 students there are 30 academic staff, 25 librarians and 46 administrative staff.

The institute's existence and work were, however, generally applauded at a recent debate in the European Parliament in Strasbourg with most speakers urging closer links between the body and EEC institutions, and for its cost to be covered from the EEC budget.



European University Institute: a good place to study the North Sea?

rather than, as at present, from contributions from individual governments.

However, concern was expressed that in the first five years of the university, only 12 students were awarded doctorates; and the relevance of preparing a thesis on "The history of the North Sea since the fifteenth century" in Florence rather than in Hamburg was also raised.

Diploma network proposed

STRASBOURG: The European Commission has proposed a scheme intended to ease the comparability of educational diplomas and certificates, which would also make it simpler for students to transfer their studies from one EEC country to another. If approved by Common Market governments, it could come into force in 1983.

The aim is to establish a process allowing information on developments in higher education and changes in courses to be rapidly exchanged among EEC countries.

The aim is to establish a process allowing information on developments in higher education and changes in courses to be rapidly exchanged among EEC countries.

EEC officials stress the initiative is not an attempt to harmonize diplomas

in different countries, but merely a relatively cheap way of providing accurate and fast information on the situation throughout the EEC.

They add that the staff in the commission's education department have been "inundated" with requests from the public for information.

An example of the kind of problem they hope to avoid in future is that of a Belgian woman, with a university degree from a French university, who taught in Belgium, but whose degree was not taken into account when the Belgian authorities calculated her pension because she had not received it in Belgium.

The five circumstances where the question of the relative value of qualifications or periods of study may arise, says the commission, are: entry to first level education in another member state; transfer without acquired rights from a higher education in one country to another; pursuit of postgraduate studies or research in another member state; finding a job in one country with qualifications from another; and career development in another country.

USSR/Jennifer Louis

Five year plan dictates starting age of six

By tradition Soviet children take things very easily while they are small. Those at nursery school have a long nap in the afternoon and there has been little formal instruction at all until proper school begins on the September following their seventh birthday.

But now the effects of February's party congress are beginning to make themselves felt. Soviet schools, like every other institution in the USSR, live by the five year plans. Like every other institution they have specific goals to meet during this time and now, by 1985, they are gradually to prepare to lower the school age from seven to six.

The main reason behind the decision is to ease the pressure on children in the senior classes, who are definitely overloaded. The idea of lowering the starting age is not new. In the early 1930s there were educationists who maintained, as do many teachers in the West, that the earlier a child began his studies, the better. Serious experiments began on a large scale 10 years ago, at the time that 10-year schooling became compulsory.

The first experiments were carried out in the kindergartens which cater for children from three to seven. In their final year the children were taught their three Rs.

As the majority of mothers go out to work, there are 14 million children attending kindergarten at a time and 55 per cent of all school children have been to kindergarten.

The figure for the major industrial centres is much higher than for the village population - 85 per cent, and on the increase.

Thus it seemed logical to begin formal teaching through the kindergartens. But staff there were not able to get such good results as were achieved by parallel experiments with six-year-olds admitted to established schools as a preparatory class.

The Caucasian republic of Georgia is traditionally advanced as far as educational methods are concerned, and teachers there are well satisfied with their findings. They say that children who start school earlier do better as they progress, and the difference becomes increasingly apparent after three or four years.

They emphasize, however, the importance of grading the methods of instruction to suit the younger children rather than expecting them to act older than their years.

A suitable programme for these youngsters is being worked out by the Institute of Pre-School Education of the Soviet Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, directed by Alexander Zaporozhnik, a leading Soviet psychologist.

Here five and six-year-olds, at the border between pre-school and school age, have been studied by doctors, musicians and artists as well as teachers. They have been found ready to cope with school subjects but not up to the psychological demands of a regular school routine.

Their classes, it has been decided, should never have more than 25 pupils nor should their lessons go on for longer than 35 minutes. (Forty-five minutes is the standard lesson period in school with occasional double periods for games.) They are to have longer breaks between lessons and plenty of time for outdoor play.

During their preparatory year they will learn to read, work with numbers up to 20, solve simple mathematical problems and, in some schools, start learning a foreign language.

Now that the official plan has been announced there are those who doubt that the change can be achieved across the country in only five years. At present there are barely enough qualified teachers to carry out the experiments and there is no room in the existing school buildings for additional pupils, particularly those that require a great deal of space and equipment in spite of their diminutive size.

They will need special small scale furniture, additional hot meals and a whole range of teaching aids.

The challenge that has to be met to prepare for them will be felt throughout the communities in which they live and it will be particularly hard in the country areas where there are proportionally fewer kindergartens, poorer communities and few advantages to attract a qualified teacher.

If the idea cannot be fully realized on the grand scale stipulated in the plan, it would seem that the town-dwelling "haves" will be yet further removed from the rural "have-nots" and the dream of a classless society one step further away.

Sweden/Chris Mosey

Big Mac beats school dinners

STOCKHOLM: The "Big Mac" has defeated the Swedish educational establishment and the country's consumer ombudsman.

The Market Court, which deals with consumer issues, has ruled that McDonald's, the US fast food chain, can run advertisements comparing its burgers to school meals.

McDonald's were taken to court by the consumer ombudsman, Mr. L. Viklund after complaints from teachers about an advertisement placed in a Swedish national daily paper.

It showed a grinning teenager about to sink his teeth into a double-decker hamburger under the headline "The Stockholm schools are serving Lapko." Lapko is a meat and potato dish, not renowned for its popularity among schoolchildren.

The advertisement caused a storm of protest but the court ruled that it did not contravene consumer regulations.

"For economic and social reasons, as well as from the point of view of nourishment, it is best that children in school," said the court judge.

"It is therefore wrong to create confirm prejudices against school food, but with consideration given to freedom of expression the court will follow the general interpretation applicable to society in general."



Lapko for lunch

Beatles forever

STOCKHOLM: A Swedish rock group called Liverpool is touring schools here to keep modern youth informed about the Beatles. The group, from the east coast city of Norrköping, play and sing Beatles numbers before lecturing children on the "Fab Four" and their importance in pop music.

"Our work in schools is very important," said Liverpool's leader, bass guitarist Stefan Swenander. "It is the future generation who must be able to see that the Beatles are not forgotten."



West Germany/Susannah Kirkman

Atlas rule provokes an outcry

BONN: A controversial decision to include Germany's frontiers during the Third Reich in all educational maps and atlases has provoked official protests from the governments of the Soviet Union, Poland and East Germany.

Dotted lines will represent the German borders as they were on December 31, 1937, according to a decision taken by the state education ministers last week.

The decision corresponds to official West German policy towards East Germany and the eastern bloc countries which were formerly part of Germany. At no time has the West German Government recognized the legality of the partition of Germany or the post-war delineation of its eastern borders.

Although ideas of reunifying Germany have been virtually abandoned, politicians still speak of "internal German relations" when they refer to the relationship between East and West Germany.

The border between the Federal Republic and the Democratic Republic of Germany is to be shown as what cartographers call, "a string of pearls". Berlin is to be included in all maps of West Germany and both the eastern and western parts of the city are to be coloured differently from East Germany.

The original names of East German towns are to be shown in brackets after their present names e.g. Karl-Marx Stadt (Chemnitz). Towns in Poland and other eastern bloc countries are to revert to their German names e.g. Danzig (Gdansk); Warschau (Warsaw).

According to the Russians, the new maps will "sow the seeds of revenge" for Germany's lost territories, (among German young people).

Two West German states also objected to the decree on the grounds that it would harm German-Polish relations. Hamburg, which has many trading links with Poland, refuses to use the new atlases in its schools.

Educational publishers have welcomed the attempt to standardise school maps but deplore the fact that different maps will have to be printed for Hamburg's pupils.

They also fear that German pupils from different states will receive conflicting political views of Germany. Publishers would "resist to the last any pressure to supply more than 10 million schoolchildren with different concepts of Germany," according to Dr Juergen Mackensen, head of the Georg Westermann Verlag, a leading educational publishing house.

Marks adjusted

BONN: West Germany's ministers of health have agreed to adjust the examination marks of the students who this year took the preliminary medical examination, after 56 per cent of students failed the exam.

The announced bonus of 31 correct answers for everyone will reduce this high percentage to about 25 per cent. There will also be a chance for students to retake the test in August.

"This is still way above the average failure rate of 12.8 per cent during the years 1974-79, and 17.9 per cent last year, but the ministers are hoping it will be low enough to pacify the angry students who have boycotted classes and mounted street demonstrations in protest over the failure rate (TES, May 11).

United States/Clive Cookson

Social sciences are hard hit by Reagan

WASHINGTON: Most nonmilitary federal programmes are cut back substantially by President Reagan's 1982 Budget, which is now being propelled through Congress by a coalition of Republicans and conservative Democrats. But the knife is plunging most deeply into support for the social sciences, arts and humanities.

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), whose activities include education programmes in schools as well as university research grants and fellowships, stand to lose half their funds.

The NEA would be left with \$38m, the NEH \$85m.

The social sciences may be even worse off. Their most obvious cut is in the National Science Foundation's programmes in the behavioural, social and economic sciences, which are slashed by 60 per cent to \$21m in 1982. But the Reagan Administration has also searched out pockets of financial support for social research in other agencies and tried to eliminate them; for example the Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration (ADAMHA), which has traditionally funded studies of the social conditions that lead to mental illness, alcoholism

and drug addiction, has been told to stop supporting any social research and to stick to biomedical investigation.

President Reagan's spokesmen justify these huge cuts simply on the grounds that the social sciences, humanities and arts have "low priority" at a time when nonmilitary federal expenditure must be reduced drastically to revive the American economy. The solution, according to the White House, is to attract more money from private donors - corporations, foundations and individuals - to make up for the lost federal funds.

However, many scholars do not accept that low priority alone can explain such savage treatment. Social scientists in particular believe that they are victims of a conservative anti-intellectual ideology that equates social science with social engineering and big government and sees its practitioners as liberals or socialists.

Several prominent university economists have suggested publicly that they are being punished for their discipline's general failure to support the Reagan Administration's right-wing economic programme. Professor Zvi Griliches, chairman of Harvard's economics department, said that because established economists "have

not flocked to support them, they are perceived as being captives of liberal left-wing ideologies".

There is less suspicion that the Administration has launched a political attack on the arts and humanities because it does not like their contents. After all, literature, history, philosophy and art are less obviously political than economics and sociology.

But President Reagan's advisers make no secret of their feeling that the arts and humanities endowments have grown much too big since their establishment in 1965. They believe that the Carter Administration "politicized" and "bureaucratized" the agencies, pushing them to support low-quality programmes for social and political reasons. The critics' favourite example is a \$200,000 NEH grant to a woman's group to make films about the struggle of office workers for better conditions.

Twenty-three organizations interested in the humanities, ranging from the American Council on Education to the American Historical Association, have joined together in a lobbying coalition, the National Humanities Alliance. In a desperate attempt to persuade Congress to leave NEH with more than 50 per cent of its budget, they will be relieved if they

can keep the cut down to 30 per cent.

Endowment officials will try to deflect the axe away from research and, to a lesser extent, education. Even if the total NEH budget is halved, research programmes will be reduced by only 28 per cent and education by 36 per cent, while public programmes - projects in museums, libraries and the media - lose more than 60 per cent. So next year's budget cut alone will make NEH concentrate more on scholarship, as the Reagan camp wants.

But the Administration is thinking in the longer term of bringing about more fundamental change in federal support for the arts and humanities. Last week President Reagan set up a task force to recommend a new structure to bring in more private support than NEH and NEA can at present.

One idea that the task force will consider, under co-chairmen Charlton Heston, the film actor, and Hanna Gray, president of the University of Chicago, is to convert the endowments from federal agencies to one or two independent public corporations. A possible model is the corporation for public broadcasting, which channels government and private funds into public television and radio.

Why Care About Animals?

Unfortunately, animals are often badly treated. This can be because people don't think, or don't even care what they are doing to them. Animals give humans a lot humans should make sure they give something in return.

Animals share your world. Without them this planet could not exist as you now know it. Animals are used in lots of ways. Some of them work for you and many are your companions and friends.

If you would like your pupils to learn more about the animals in Britain and other countries, why not help them to become Junior Members of the RSPCA: the oldest and one of the largest Animal Welfare Societies in the world?

Anyone aged up to 17 years old can become an RSPCA Junior Member and join the thousands of other young people all over the British Isles who are

concerned about the welfare of animals.

RSPCA Junior Members can take part in activities, do projects, puzzles and competitions, and of course, write in with any ideas, stories or photographs. These might be published in the magazine.



They will receive a badge Membership card and the Junior Magazine which comes out four times a year.

Teachers forming a group will receive a pack giving ideas for activities and a regular newsletter. They will also be entitled to make use of the facilities offered by the Education Department including the opportunity to borrow films and slide sets produced by the RSPCA.



Caring for Animals is not enough. Help us to look after them.

THE RSPCA



For further information please complete coupon and return with s.a.e. to: RSPCA Junior Membership, Education Department, Causeway, Horsham, Sussex RH12 1HG.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Travel

SPAIN, ITALY, FRANCE AND CORFU

14 days - £89 inclusive.

Panoramic camping and hotel holidays. Luxury travel. Excellent facilities. Come to Spain and Corfu in Spain, Rome Venice and Lido di Jesolo (near Venice) in Italy, Port Grimaud (St. Tropez) and Chant. Plage (Mediterranean) in the South of France, and the lovely island of Corfu. Luxury travel by coach - also by air to Italy and Corfu.

Ring or write TODAY for free colour brochure

CLIVE DANTON & SONS LTD. 24 Vauxhall Road, St. Albans, Herts. AL1 1AA. Tel. 0452 557711

LANGUAGE COURSES

ABROAD

considering language courses with family or educational accommodation? 2 or 3 weeks inclusive of travel & insurance. All levels 10-30 per week for 1981. FRANCE, GERMANY, SPAIN, ITALY, Greece, Belgium, Holland, etc. Tel. 0181 734 1111



LEARNING THROUGH ADVENTURE

Education holidays for Junior & Senior Schools, U.S. & France, Holland, etc. Tel. 0181 734 1111

Modern Young Adventure and PGL holidays. Tel. 0181 734 1111

PGL Schools Adventure 0181 734 1111

FREEPOST Road on Wye Hill 1981

Sarah Lefanu taught in Mozambique and found a surprisingly rigid regime

Old methods harnessed for new results

"When I first arrived at my school in Mozambique, I was struck by how orthodox the school seemed. Hard work and discipline were the key words, and were expressed in the vast quantity of exams, and the rigid relationship between students and teachers. I was surprised to enter a classroom to find 50 children standing to attention, in silence."

It was only after some time in the school, when I was more familiar with the Portuguese language, that I began to understand the system, and why it was so rigid. It was not just a matter of discipline, but also of how profoundly it differed from colonial education. The exams were a burden, not only on the students but also on the teachers, who had to do all the setting and marking, and spend numerous lessons on revision. But the emphasis on results reflected a fear that academic standards would drop after independence.

Many qualified teachers left Mozambique then, and at the same time, universal education was declared, a principle of the Frelimo government. With huge classes - even with the three-shift system on which all schools run - and with many of the final year students (equivalent of our O level) doubling up as teachers, these fears are obviously not unfounded.

The apparently authoritarian role of the teacher is justified on similar pragmatic grounds. With students aged 17 or 18 in the junior classes being taught by teachers of their own age, the insistence on an obvious demarcation between the two is helpful psychology.



"Tough idealism" in schools

The general policy of Frelimo is reflected in the way the schools are taken to overcome the problems with which a newly independent underdeveloped country is faced, and on another level a tough idealism insists on new ways of working together that will forge a different consciousness.

The apparently authoritarian role of the teacher exists with a disciplinary and teaching system that has as its basic unit the small group of five or six into which all pupils are divided. Each member of the group is responsible for the academic work and general behaviour of the others. Truancy, disobedience or any of the common school problems are dealt with first in the group while learning, too, is seen as a collective process.

The contradictions between collectivity and individual achievement are highlighted by the plethora of tests and exams, and remain unresolved. Yet the

rationale of group work is not solely ideological; with the shortage of textbooks, paper and even desks, shared work becomes a necessity.

During the two years that I spent in Mozambique, I saw an increasing emphasis on technical subjects and a corresponding move away from a sole academic curriculum. My school, the Escola Gungunhana, was the only secondary school in Niassa offering a full five years of secondary education, and functioned as three schools in one: technical, commercial and liceu (academic).

When I arrived the pupils enrolled at the separate agricultural school were having their lessons in the buildings of an old mission school in the town, which they shared with the adult literacy courses run by the Mozambican women's organization. A year later they had moved into their own school five kilometres out of town, and were engaged in cultivating the surrounding land with the aim of eventually becoming self-sufficient. More and more agricultural and technical schools are being built as Mozambique continues to suffer from the effects of the huge exodus, in 1975, of skilled Portuguese personnel, many of whom left behind them a wake of destruction in ruined machines and slaughtered livestock.

The foreign aid that has been given to Mozambique over the last five years brings its own problems.

At the beginning of 1979 machines arrived from the Danish Government to be used by the students on the

electricity and mechanics courses at the school where I taught. The new building into which they would go had been delayed, first by the rains and then by the shortage of construction materials. The machines remained in their packing cases throughout the rainy season, and then the dry season, while the wood rotted and the cases split open. But by the time I left the machines were installed and the students at last were able to do practical work.

The road to self-sufficiency is a long one, and in Mozambique it was too easy for a western observer to tell myself to give way to his frustration and to overlook the radical change that had already taken place.

A class of 12-year-olds studying a map of Mozambique and learning the names of the rivers, or 14-year-olds studying nineteenth century history and discovering tales of resistance to the early Portuguese invaders, might not sound very revolutionary, but under Portuguese rule the majority of those children would never even have entered a secondary school, while those who did would have spent their time in geography lessons learning by heart the names of all the railway stations in Portugal.

Mozambican children are for the first time learning a sense of pride in their own country, and that is the principle on which the gradual change towards an increasingly technical education is based.

CASIO WHAT WILL THEY
THINK OF NEXT?

Courses

UNIVERSITY OF BATH MASTERS DEGREES IN EDUCATION

The School of Education offers places for the one-year taught course leading to the degree of M.Ed. The Course is organized on a modular basis so that students study six modules from the following lists:

Measurement in Psychology
Educational Statistics
Comparative Education
Sociology of Education
Educational Technology I
Curriculum Studies
Mathematical Education
Organisation Theory
Manpower Management I
Education and Training Systems

Learning Theories
Research Design
History of Education
Information Science
Educational Technology II
Science and Society
Management of Innovation
Manpower Management II
Systems Analysis in
Educational Management

Students are required to study three modules in each of the Autumn and Spring terms, while the Summer term is spent in the preparation of a dissertation. By the choice of an appropriate combination of modules it is possible to specialise in Management in Education or Educational Technology.

The M.Ed. degree may also be offered on a part-time basis to teachers in the local area.

Application forms and further details may be obtained from the Director of Studies for the Taught M.Ed. course, School of Education, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY.

National Association of Careers and Guidance Teachers Annual Course/Conference

"LIFESKILLS IN THE CURRICULUM — International Perspectives"

9th — 11th July 1981
Edge Hill College of H.E., Ormskirk

Further details from:
The Conference Secretary, 28 Meade Manor, Claude Road,
Manchester M21 2DA.

CERTIFICATE IN COUNSELLING

One-year course of 32 weekly evening sessions from mid-September to the end of the year. The course covers the theory and practice of counselling. Lecturers and seminars for Social Workers, Health Visitors, Nurses, Teachers, Probation Officers, Marriage Counsellors and all helping professions. Recognized by ILEA and other authorities for grants to full-time teachers. Extended Course DES approved for pooling.

Information from the Clinic Director, Room 7

Lincoln Clinic and Institute for Psychotherapy
77 Westminster Bridge Road,
London SE1 7HS

EXPERT HOME TUITION FOR

G.C.E.,

DEGREES,
(BSc (Econ) and LLB
University of London
external degrees)
and PROFESSIONAL EXAMS
(Accountancy, Administration,
Civil Service, Law,
Marketing, etc.).

Our exclusive methods of Home
Study have brought over 340,000
examination successes, many first
places. As every course is complete
in itself no textbooks are required.
Obtain your FREE prospectus from:

THE RAPID RESULTS COLLEGE
DEPT. HFS, TUITION HOUSE,
LONDON SW18 4DS.
Tel: 01-871 7222 (Secretary Service)
9.00-6.00 Mon-Fri 11.00-5.00 Sat
24 Hour Emergency Service
Approved by the Council for the
Recognition of Correspondence Courses

Tuition for Degrees Education & GCE

Wolsey Hall is the Oxford Home Study Centre
whose qualified tutors give you individual attention.
The range of courses includes subjects vital both to
teachers and to those of their pupils leaving school
without proper qualifications.

DEGREES & DIPLOMAS: London University
OPEN UNIVERSITY: Preparatory courses

G.C.E.: O & A level, all boards

PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATIONS

EDUCATION:
London University Diploma in Education,
The A.C.P. and L.C.P. Diplomas, Cambridge
University Diploma and Certificate in Religious
Studies

Free booklet from
The Hon F J Parker, CBE, MC, MA,
Dept. BDA, Wolsey Hall, Oxford OX2 6PR
Telephone: (01865) 84311 (Answer after 4.45 p.m.)

WOLSEY HALL

Approved ACC Member ABCC

TES SPECIAL INSERTS 1981

If you would like a list of the special inserts planned for
publication in the TES during 1981 please write to

The Advertisement Manager,
The Times Educational Supplement,
P.O. Box 7 Gray's Inn Road,
London WC1X 8EZ

Talkback

Taking responsibility Don Middleham

The Diamond Challenge Programme was introduced, as a fourth year option, in September 1979. The course is so named because, like a diamond, it has many facets, and the diamond shape links the six basic elements. It is a challenge to personal qualities over five terms.

It is hoped that at the end of the course the students will have shown greater awareness and development in six areas: reliability, concern, care, initiative, independence and responsibility. Students are directly involved and responsible for the planning and decision making above the content, and methods suitable for developing these qualities.

The structure of the course revolves around units of work known as programmes. These are planned by the

students to meet their own particular needs, as the course evolves. The programmes can be teacher-directed, or self-directed.

When a student feels ready to self-direct, a contract is signed to that effect. There are four categories of programme: Basic, Standard, Extended and Extended Plus, consisting of three, six, nine and twelve activities respectively.

The activities undertaken in the programme form a basic six element framework inside which the students can put their ideas, in consultation with staff if needed. They plan events, develop personal skills and interests, undertake inquiries and interviews, help others, and get involved in teaching and learning, either directly or indirectly.

The students gather and organize information, negotiate, foresee results, make choices and learn how to handle and adapt to people. When ready they put the planned activities into action, and afterwards analyse their success or failure.

Finally, they make a record of the

planning, outcome and review stages of their chosen activities, on specially prepared sheets, for inclusion in a folder, so that at the end of the course there is documentary evidence of developed qualities.

The programme was conceived and implemented as a balance to the examination spiral at large in schools today. It is an attempt to foster those qualities that might be deemed important to people's well-being in an age when computers and robots can dispense and store all our knowledge.

It is an attempt at helping young people learn for themselves how to make things happen in an environment where, for most of the time, decisions are taken by other people. It is aimed at those students who are prepared to take up the challenge of taking responsibility for their own actions and their own education, and who are prepared to make plans, choices, decisions and ultimately take overall responsibility for outcomes.

Don Middleham is head of year, King Edward VI School, Tames, Devon.

Doomed from the start A. R. Stiller

As a pupil at a secondary school in the fifties and sixties who has become a teacher, I read Harry Rée's article "New Models for Old" (April 10) with incredulity.

His author is a sincere man who cares profoundly for education, but can he really believe the things he writes? He suggests that because the dials has finally disappeared, teachers can get on with their real task of "improving the world".

He asserts teachers should have intimate knowledge of the home circumstances of all their pupils so as to know how to treat them. But this can cause more harm than good.

I came from what would now be called a "deprived" home and was thankful to be able to attend school,

where I was not seen as a candidate for psychoanalysis or "positive" discrimination. At least I was treated like everyone else in an atmosphere of normality — my unsatisfactory home was not allowed to undermine my academic and social progress.

Harry Rée clearly feels that school should influence every aspect of a pupil's life. It's ironic that this happens effectively mainly in independent boarding schools, whose staff are dismissed as "models . . . not totally extinct".

The incontrovertible rightness of the new models is backed by a mass of totally unsupported assertion. How do we know they were "serious-minded and idealistic" as students? How do we know they stayed in teaching because of "courage as well as conviction"?

It's hardly revelatory either that learning takes place "on the stairs, in the corridors, in the playground." Such pupil-teacher contact was a feature of my grammar school in the fifties, as were innumerable extra-curricular activities which Harry Rée seems to

feel are modern innovations.

Further, it is not a contradiction to say few people have the qualities he now style "new style teaching," and then immediately expect society to reward an "army" from these few! Again, when have these benefactors come from when not many years ago Harry Rée expressed grave concern at the low calibre of recruits to the profession?

It is comforting to know that the new models are "not without academic concern," but we are told they may seem "too good to be true." We might ask if their greater vocational dedication squares with the fact that the seventies, during which they were, gave us endless disruption over

Harry Rée's concept of teaching doomed from the start. Education cannot change the world into something that it is not; he recognises himself that teachers trying to make his ideals must become part-timers, or die from stress.

A. R. Stiller is deputy head at Robertsbridge School, East Sussex.



Axegrinder Rough cuts

If you ask someone to recall their school days, it will not be long before they describe some pain or humiliation suffered as a punishment, which they have carried with them through life. Teachers have always had a bizarre sense of the dramatic punishment, born perhaps of a desire to stress its

effect. This is evident in the punishment book of the 1920s recently found in a dusty corner of a local primary school. The name Tom O'Leary appears almost daily, his crimes ranging from "talking," "insubordination," and "smudging his work" to "fighting" and "interfering with girls".

Despite this varied catalogue, the response in those days was uniform: three, four or five "strokes". Teachers can be more sophisticated. It so happens that just now "interfering with girls" is reaching epidemic proportions at that junior school on the right side of this track (despite all those enlightened descriptions of animals "mating", how the new baby started and expensively, "anatomically-correct" Swedish dolls).

The new punishment is to stand through break in the toilets (of all places) with your trousers down, thereby exposing to your peers what you would devoutly have exposed in the

opposite sex. Similarly, pupils who persistently wander round the classroom are placed on top of a high cupboard, which prevents mobility (and all can gaze upon your shame!).

In our favourite little church school, children who talk or push in the dinner queue have to stand holding their meal (in the centre of the hall) until it is cold, and then eat it. Elsewhere (as in Key), "weeds" who have not shown appropriate enthusiasm for the rigours of the games field are given further inducement by having to wait for a shower until the water has run cold.

I can still recall (aged 6) sitting outside the head's door cross-legged on the cold lino (I can still feel that lino) with the older girls giggling and pointing at me as they passed down the corridor. We carry with us not the horror of the crime, but the horror (thrill?) of the punishment. Is exposure in the lavs the first step towards "indecent behaviour in a public place"?

On the other hand, one must admit that it is a little difficult to see the logic in some punishment. At Sunnybank, top juniors failing to produce homework are required to sing to the class. Culture and Anarchy comp, a letter to a parent which started: "In the course of an altercation in the corridor, your son attempted to strangle another boy. This is not the first time this boy has been victimized and his parents are a little disturbed. I wonder whether we might discuss this incident . . ." might seem a little understated.

I spent a lot of my school days in one of our colonies, and there one teacher, Miss Tebbutt, an enormous woman before whom even the headmaster quailed, upheld the traditions of Empire by razing punishment to the heights of viciousness and sadism. She kept a plate of quarter inch cubes of carbolite soap in a little dish "to wash out the mouth of any boy who uses bad language".

On particularly hot days, she would ritually place a large bottle of evil

tasting castor oil, syrup of figs and Old knows what on the front of her raised desk. This evil mixture was to cure "any little boy who makes any smelly".

Worst of all was the punishment for talking. A "tape monitor" was appointed each day. If a talker was identified, the monitor had to place a piece of two-inch-wide brown tape across the talker's mouth. It remained there for the rest of the day. With much internal dribbling and careful licking you could form a small sil little sweet in.

Subtler forms abound today. Alternatives to corporal punishment have been devised by many schools. However, in one education authority (which has banned caning), I observed a teacher ring a parent, ask permission to "beat" his child, and when the parent readily agreed, was forced to see her do so.

No doubt less corporal punishments will lead to more suspensions and banning. At Culture and Anarchy comp, "suspended" pupils are taken out of school. They are ushered out at the front gate, only to return via the back one (though one troublemaker has preferred to stay at home and watch Schools' TV all day).

At another secondary school, they have coined the phrase "internal wall drawl" (a kind of *patagonicus* *drawl*) to signify banning from lessons, and being placed in some other, less desirable area of the school. I suppose my sitting cross-legged on the lino was just that.

Correction
The headings of two articles on the Talkback page of 5 May were inadvertently transposed. The article by John Bald should have carried the heading "A time to read"; that by W. S. Diller the heading "A routine game".

The need to diverge

Eric Duckworth and Ronald Lewin argue that schools are failing to interest children in science and engineering because they do not recognise the open-ended nature of real-life problems

Last year's Finniston Report on the Engineering Profession said that one of the causes of British industrial decline was the lack of proper utilization of engineers in British industry. A contributory reason is our school education system, which tends to teach science and technology in such a way as to discourage many, although by no means all, of the more imaginative children from considering engineering careers.

The first evidence of this came with the work of Liam Hudson at Cambridge University, when he was re-examining the results of intelligence tests on a large number of under-graduates.

He discovered that there was a bias in the results, which distinguished between science and non-science graduates. Hudson said that the standard intelligence tests examined "convergent" mentalities — that is, mentalities which were able to perceive and to be contented with problems with a single solution — and that these types of problems were especially attractive to those reading science subjects.

For the non-scientists, problems with a unique solution did not seem attractive. Hudson, using the work of Getzels and Jackson on creativity and intelligence, developed different types of tests which measured divergence, and asked pupils to tackle such problems as finding the maximum number of uses for common objects such as bricks, barrels, paper clips, shoe polish and blankets.

He found that many of the scientists were unhappy with the open-ended nature of his new type of intelligence test, and could only think of a limited range of uses for familiar objects. The non-scientists performed better; in some cases a phenomenal number of uses was proposed for the most mundane objects.

This analysis has been criticized as taking too extreme a view. There is no doubt that many scientists and engineers are imaginative, and not all non-scientists have high imaginative powers. But the method of teaching science and technology in schools is too convergent; although many imaginative children may be attracted to the sciences, they inevitably become schooled in convergent modes of thought. This convergent discipline has adverse economic and cultural effects.

To correct this, we must considerably extend the changes already introduced in some of our more progressive science and technology teaching, so as to make clear the open-ended nature of the solutions to the problems these disciplines are able to tackle. We must reverse the cultural tendency of our secondary system to encourage convergent thinking at the expense of divergence, and allow a real free choice in subjects and careers.

The skills in problem solving taught in schools are quite distinct to those needed outside. It is implicit if one reads a traditional examination paper that problems in school are largely based on the following sets of rules: problems last about half an hour; all the information is given; no extraneous information is provided; problems are solved alone; no copying from others is allowed; the problem has a definite solution.

In contrast, problems in real life can take a very long time to solve. The information available may be either too little or too much. Other people should be involved, and it is advantageous

to copy from the work of others. It is frightening to think of the number of responsible people in industry who may give up seeking solutions to problems because they have been taught at school that, after a half hour's effort, they should either have solved them or are incapable of so doing.

There must be many able engineers who find it difficult to shake off the habits of thought inculcated at school, and hence realise their true potential to industry. There must also be many in non-science and non-technical career positions who yearn for the opportunity to practise an engineering skill for which they have had no proper training. The number of people in non-technical positions who have hobbies which show a high degree of engineering skill is an illustration of this.

Yet so divorced is our culture from science and technology that we have no word in English for "the art of making things"; and the downgrading of the word "engineer" has been commented upon in the Finniston Report and elsewhere. It is of vital importance, therefore, that the open-ended nature of real life problems in science and engineering be emphasized in school, so as to preserve the interest and involvement of our more imaginative children.

On the basis of our own work in the Fulmer Industry/Education Project with children between the ages of 9 to 18, we would offer the following observations. First it is important to arouse the interest and curiosity of children at an early age. It is surprisingly easy to introduce technology awareness in primary education; we tend to underestimate the ability of young children to grasp concepts which relate to real problems in outside life.

In our approach, technology awareness is introduced at the primary stage, technological capability in the secondary stage, and technological options kept available as formal examinations

are approached.

tion subjects at A and degree level. The primary system, which bases much of its work around project activities, is ideal for the introduction of technological awareness through the medium of the "design process", which includes the concept of need, problem solving, developing solutions, designing and making things. Many opportunities present themselves for linking in with other major inputs such as numbers, reading, writing and social skills. Technology can be seen to comprise those qualities and skills already encouraged in the primary system such as creativity, working as a team, open-ended problems and organization.

Pupils entering the secondary system must continue the technological awareness theme started at the primary school, be introduced to the study of materials and processes and their relevance to arts and science subjects. By the time pupils start to consider O-level options they will have learned that technological subjects required people with both creative and divergent talents.

Students, however, would not have to commit themselves at this time to any set career pattern; since, with certain minor changes in the present O-level syllabuses, they will be well equipped to elect for more specific choices at A-level. It would be preferable to keep career options open even at A-level, and an imaginative student who wished to delay his or her decisions as long as possible and took, say, history, French and technology should be acceptable to universities offering engineering courses.

Unfortunately, the indications are that university engineering departments are reluctant to consider any significant departures from their tradition of only accepting A-levels in mathematics, physics and chemistry.

A good example of the resistance being experienced by those who are endeavouring to broaden the initial education of our potential

engineers has been given by M. Deere in the June 1980 issue of *Engineering*.

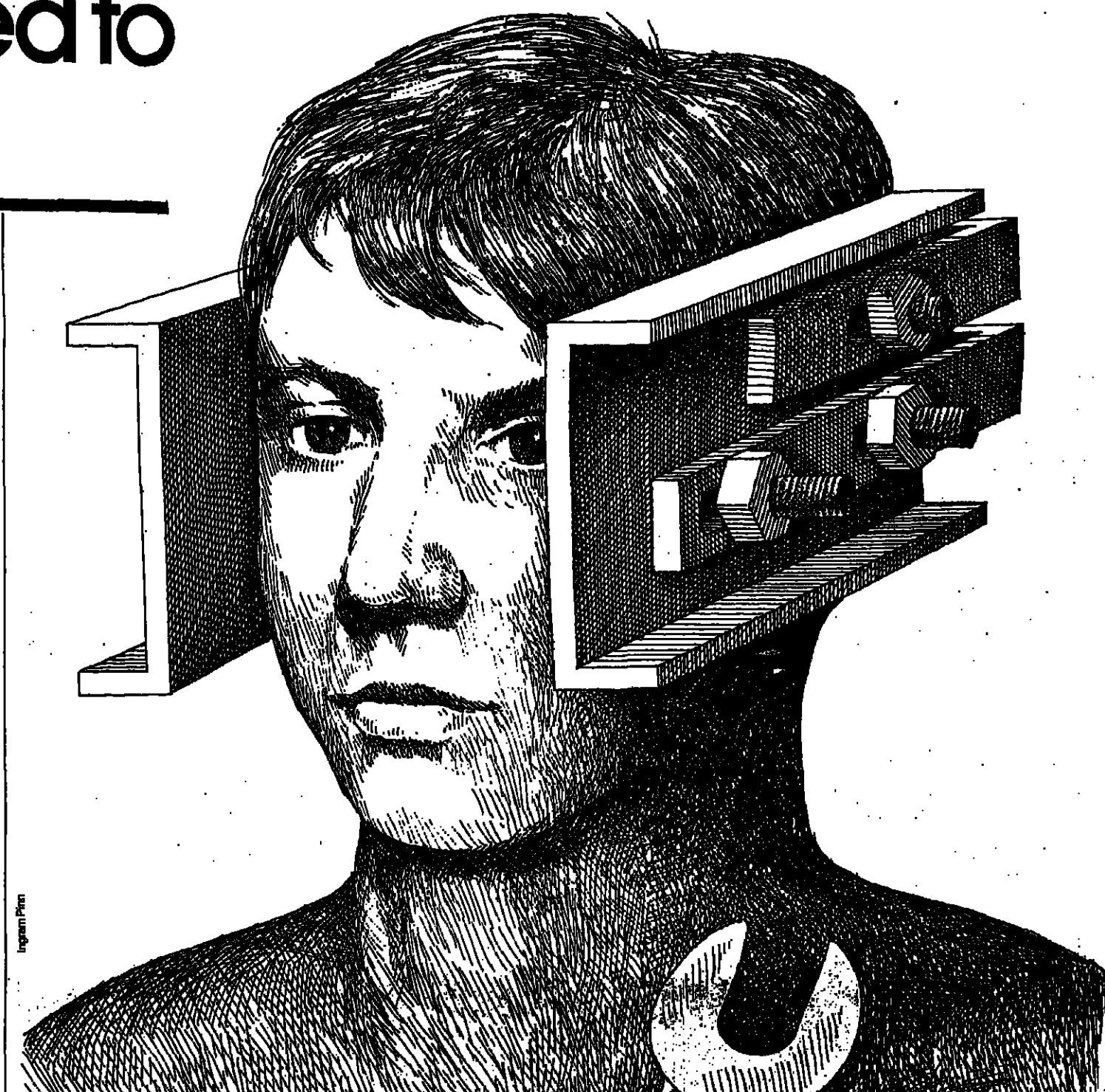
To achieve this kind of change in our school curriculum will require action by parents, teachers, careers officers, examination boards, universities, industry, Government and the children themselves. For any action to be taken it must be clear that there is a need for change. We shall not survive as an industrial nation without children with a broader understanding of the role of education in our society who are better equipped to be good engineers, designers and technological administrators.

The main initiative must come from industry and Government. Much encouraging action is already being taken, and the mechanism for change is in evidence through existing industry education liaison units. Parents must be convinced that there is a future for their children, educated in the manner described; it is, again, the responsibility of industry and Government to provide this conviction.

Teachers must be given the wherewithal to teach. Here, also, Government and industry can help in the way which many industry education units have pioneered. Examination boards must respond by providing examinations more suited to the new curriculum; and, finally, university professors must abandon their entrenched attitudes. Universities are rightly proud of their tradition of promoting change. Engineering departments must not desert this tradition themselves.

A successful change along the lines proposed will help to ensure, for this country, a place as great in the twenty-first century as it was in the nineteenth, before our education process encouraged our brightest children from entering industry.

Eric Duckworth and Ronald Lewin work in the Fulmer Research Institute, Stoke Poges, Berkshire.





Mike Abraham/Network

Language of the emotions

Graham Wade on the Bangla Education and Cultural Centre

In 1968, a Bangladeshi teacher set up The Bengali School In A Foreign Country. Mrs Z. Buksh likes to think that pioneering effort as "the mother of the mother tongue schools in Britain".

She arrived in Britain in 1965 from East Pakistan (which became Bangladesh in 1971). She soon became aware that Bangladeshi children in Britain needed something they weren't getting. "I thought how cut off they were from their own country, growing up without its culture or language. Even when their parents went to visit other Bangladeshi homes, the children just wanted to stay at home and watch television programmes," she says.

So she set about organizing The Bengali School. An Indian GP agreed to lend his surgery's waiting room as premises. She got some books together and the school began.

In Pakistan, she had been a teacher in a girls' high school, but she decided that she needed to train as a teacher in Britain. After doing a diploma in the Montessori method, and a post-graduate course at Nottingham University, where she specialized in the primary age range, she became a supply teacher for ILEA.

"I saw all the kinds of problems faced by coloured children about their language. There were quite a number who couldn't speak either their own language or English properly—they were really suffering," she says.

In 1974, the Bengali school was re-established in North London by Mrs Buksh and a small group of Bangladeshi women. This time the project was called the Bangla Education and Cultural Centre, because the group wanted to lay emphasis on the wider cultural aspects of the school in addition to language. Another doctor was persuaded to make his surgery available.

As the school became more popular, larger premises were offered by a Methodist church in Hackney, East London, where a Saturday Bengali school still operates. Last year the school opened a Sunday class in a large house

round the corner from Arsenal football ground. The house is the new base for the Centre.

Already one floor has been refurbished, and is used by the Sunday school. In time the whole building will be repaired, providing space for five related projects—pre-school facilities, library, community centre, student hostel and the Bangla Education and Cultural Centre school.

The Saturday school in Hackney and the Sunday one in Highbury each attract between 30 and 40 children, some attending both. Most fall within the five to 13 age group, although there are no rigid limits.

The students live in Hackney, Haringey and Islington (there is an estimated 55,000 Bangladeshi population in North and East London). Classes are advertised in a Bengali newspaper, and posters displayed in some doctors' surgeries.

The teachers have been recruited mostly through the Bangladeshi Women's Association. All have teaching experience in Bangladesh, some in Britain. They receive about £2 a day for teaching at the weekend school. If the students' parents can afford it, they pay £12.5 a month for each child they send.

The bulk of the running costs comes from the Bangladeshi government—through its provision of the Highbury premises—and ILEA, currently contributing over £3,000 a year from its community education funds for "mother tongue language classes outside normal school hours".

The children are encouraged to work individually on drawings and paintings as well as participating in singing and dance. Experience in the early days of the school showed that traditional books and materials from Bangladesh itself were of limited appeal to children living in Britain.

"The pictures and the words weren't very relevant to them," Mrs Buksh explains. "If we were to be successful in developing mother tongue teaching we had to develop our own books and materials."

With the help of her husband and an artist, she has been working on books for Bengali children growing up abroad. She has already prepared a pre-reader called *Alphabet Through Pictures and Sounds* and the first book in a proposed series of five entitled *Let's Come and Study Bengali*. This reading scheme will prepare students for O level Bengali. The books are almost entirely in Bengali.

The main argument advanced by teachers at the weekend school in support of mother tongue teaching centres on the all-round educational benefits for the child.

Mrs Sophia Rahman, who also teaches in an ILEA school, explains: "We're not breeding a minority. In state schools the teachers are finding out that if a child doesn't understand its mother tongue then it also doesn't understand many things in English. The EEC is propagating the same idea. This is why we are doing it—it could equally be for a Jewish or Greek-Cypriot child."

Mrs Rahman recalled the experience of her own daughter, who learned English as her first language: "I taught her Bengali and she spoke it for a few years, but then she reverted to English. She would answer in English if I addressed her in Bengali. She went through a problem of identity for a long time. She went to an English school and didn't look like a Bengali child, so nobody thought she was one—and neither did she."

"But then she went to the university, where she found out that not only was she a Bengali, but she was different as well. This was the first time she had to accept herself as a Bengali. Because she was taught Bengali as a child she now speaks it."

A parent of a child at the weekend school put it slightly differently: "I wouldn't like my children growing up as Anglo-Indians, totally confused by Eastern and Western cultures. They must learn the Bengali culture and British culture, and then choose which they wish to follow."

In all there are about 20 weekend schools teaching Bengali. Clearly they only serve a small percentage of children in the Bengali community. Mrs Buksh and her colleagues would like to see such projects expand quickly. "Our children's education will not feel free until they come to the mother tongue school," she says.

A notice on the wall at the Bangla Education and Cultural Centre sums up her message more poetically. A rough translation of it runs: "English is our work language, but not the language of our emotions."

Mrs Buksh can be contacted at the Bangla Centre on 01-354 0530 between 3-5 pm on most Sundays.



Way of learning: Formality for the French children (above); a more relaxed approach for the Dutch (below).



'That Dutchy was swearing'

Hilary Wilce reports on the meeting of several cultures brought about by the arrival of international schools in Aberdeen

The plundering of the North Sea has brought oilmen and their families from all over the world to what was once a remote corner of Scotland. As a result the quiet grey city of Aberdeen boasts the most flourishing community of international schools in the United Kingdom.

A day trip around these classrooms is a miniaturized tour of the sharply contrasting educational styles of the West—and a keen reminder of just how directly education systems grow from the soil of national culture. "Every national education system is a direct reflection of a society and its value system," says Clinton Vickers, superintendent of the big American School in Aberdeen.

His office looks onto distant Scottish mountains, but his task is to give his students an American experience of education. "Our system is an open one; eclectic, diverse. Our concept of the needs of children dictates our academic programme, our concern for the individual child, and our low pupil/teacher ratio."

The school, spread on two beautiful campuses on the rural fringes of the city, has the relaxed and casual air of schools in middle class America. Relations between staff and pupils are of the shoulder-punching, "how-ya-doin'?"

variety; older pupils possess that articulate self-confidence which makes the term "pupils" seem so inappropriate to American high schools. Then there are the many small signals of national difference—the sneakers and baseball caps and tee shirts proclaiming "The Americans Have Landed."

The Americans landed in Aberdeen a good few years ago and the school, founded in 1971, has a turbulent history. It was started as a private venture, but numbers rose and standards dropped, until parents, helped by the oil companies, bought it up and turned it into a not-for-profit-making trust, run by a board of directors elected by parents.

The school is finding its feet. Clinton Vickers, who arrived at the school this academic year, is anxious to establish the many credentials of a transformed establishment. His framed degrees hang on the walls, and he lists with pride the school's affiliations to international schools bodies.

There are 270 students, the overwhelming majority American, as are most of the 35 staff. About a third of the students change each year as peripatetic oil families move around the world. An important aim of the school there-

fore is to provide a mainstream American education, enabling students to change from one American international school to another without difficulty.

Providing an American cultural background is also considered crucial. Students go out and about on educational visits, but concentrate on American history, geography and social studies in the classroom. The prime academic aim is to prepare students for college in America—about 85 per cent of students return to school or college in the United States—and formal testing plays a key role in measuring achievement. Students take the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the standard college entrance qualifying examination. The California Achievement Test is used to evaluate performance within the school.

Although the school reserves the right to select students, it rarely turns any away. The principal of the lower school, Thomas Driscoll, feels he would be ill-equipped to cope with a completely non-English-speaking child, and would have to refer such a child to the local education authority. This is in stark contrast with many schools in the United States—but the Aberdeen pupils mostly come from white, well-off, well-motivated families, and chronic educational problems are few and far between.

From the sunny and casual classrooms of the American school it is only a short taxi ride back into the city to the French school, but the contrast in educational styles is enormous. French schooling is formal and academic. The smallest of the school, run by the Total Oil Marine company for the handful of French secondary-age students in Aberdeen, precludes formality, but the school is nevertheless closely geared to that high summit of the French school system, the *baccalauréat*.

This aspect of the school is perhaps unfair to pupils for sports and arts, and to use science and library facilities, but tend to make few friends outside the school unit. Academically, too, there can be problems. "The disadvantage of small numbers is that there is no competition between the pupils. It is difficult to know what the standards are when there is less chance to compare," Monsieur Gallion says.

But advantages outweigh disadvantages, he

feels. Students can overcome their specific subject difficulties through intensive tuition. "If they wish to work hard they can do tremendously well."

In addition, there is a close and familiar relationship between pupils and staff that is a rare pleasure for French teachers. With such tiny numbers, says Monsieur Gallion, it is possible to load the whole school into cars and go off on outings and visits.

The Dutch school is another oil company school, this time financed by Shell Exploration and Production which runs many schools around the world. The Netherlands and Great Britain tend to see broadly eye to eye when it comes to educational approaches, which in part might explain the unusually close integration between the Dutch school and its host primary school, Causewayend.

Flora Youngston, the head of Causewayend, stresses that it has taken years of hard work to achieve the present amiable and mutually advantageous coexistence. "I couldn't see the point of having different nationalities under one roof without integration. We're all meant to be Europeans now. The advantage has to be that children learn to live with another nation; they learn to understand another culture."

Causewayend is a castellated granite building, which, in spite of appearances, immediately presents the visitor with the impression of a lively, happy school. Project work lines the corridor walls, and young pupils show no qualms in tapping on the headmistress's door.

The Dutch school inhabits a separate wing of four classrooms, a resources centre and a library. Here 45 children follow the Dutch pattern of primary schooling, which the head of the school, Georgette Siemers, describes as "not yet very progressive". "We still teach individual

subjects like history, biology and geography. We do not do so much project work," she says. The pupils take an 11-plus-type test, CITO, from the Central Institute of Testing in The Netherlands. About a third of all pupils in The Netherlands take this test, one of a number used to determine which secondary school children will go on to.

One result of going to school in Scotland is that the children's own language suffers. "They have a much smaller Dutch vocabulary than they would have in Holland," Georgette Siemers says.

On the other hand, they acquire an interesting English vocabulary. The broad Scots' skipping to rhymes which float up to the head's window from the playground often come from the Dutch children, as do some rarer local expressions. "That Dutchy was swearing," a round-eyed Scots pupil ran in to report one day. The children join together for music and games, concerts and fund-raising. The only time trouble has loomed has been because of rival World Cup loyalties.

Staff also share facilities quite happily. Shell provides enviable classroom furniture and décor, something which Flora Youngston feared could cause staff jealousy. But the school as a whole has benefited to some extent from the oil company's spending, and no such friction has occurred.

Perhaps not surprisingly, Flora Youngston is extremely bitter that, after all this hard work of integration, a decision has been taken to close her school under a local reorganization plan. Although the Dutch school will certainly be found a home in another Aberdeen primary school, Georgette Siemers echoes the views of her three fellow Dutch teachers when she says simply: "We are very happy here."

books

Wells of invention running dry?

Roy Blatchford on secondary English textbooks

Positive English. By Albert Rowe. Book One. £1.35. Book Two. £1.75. Book Three. £1.75. Book Four. £1.75. Macmillan.

Positive English Workbooks 1-4. By Ronald Ridout. Macmillan.

Looking into English. Book Three. By Peter Emmens. Hart-Davis £2.65. 0 247 12688 8.

English Workshop. Book Three. By Andrew Carter and Christopher Owen. Hodder and Stoughton £2.50. 0 340 24297 3.

Focal English. By Jones, Burgen and Hosker. Stanley Thornes £2.20. 0 85950 478 6. 478 6.

In a depressed publishing climate, with few new titles and a steady stream of revised and repackaged best-sellers coming on to the market, it is all the more disconcerting to discover the Grand Old Man of English language course-books still winning commissions. From the progressive wings of English teaching, Ridout's *Workbooks* elicit a

counsel of despair, for what they offer is a slavish, albeit knowingly professional, recasting of sections from *English Today*. The numerous exercises in that seminal text devised over 30 years ago, "calculated to arrest attention and fertilize imagination", reappear today seemingly untouched by currently accepted notions about children's incremental language acquisition.

The *Workbooks*, with their dry-as-dust gap-filling assignments embracing the usual gamut of plurals, prefixes, subjects and predicates, alphabetical ordering, and synonyms, serve as supporting pupil-booklets to a new secondary course from another established task master, Albert Rowe. In common with Ridout, his course-books have, in the past, included a wealth of thoughtful and valuable teaching material, but the well of invention is clearly running dry—or at best is resistant to change.

Divided into a traditional unit format and sporting drab illustrations and dingy page design, *Positive English* moves pupils through the perennial hoops: from sentence construction on page one of Book One through apostrophes, flint, and non finite verbs, interjections, reported speech and, in Book Four, to a section on describing and restricting adjective clauses.

There are further irrelevances, some confusing editorial links, the odd empty exhortation ("enjoy John Clare's two poems") and several abrupt extracts from an unadventurous range of writers. Stock-cupboards have plenty of this type of fodder already.

There is a similar stuffiness about Emmens's *Looking into English*, an annoyingly haphazard collection of stimulus material with little sense of progression or coherence. Certain tasks show scant awareness of the occupations and fascinations of the intended teenage reader and language exercises frequently lack a relevant context from which to develop. An eye for the humorous and the extraordinary is apparent in occasional flourishes, but there is little else to recommend the volume either as a resource to dip into or a class text to follow through.

In contrast, *English Workshop 3* (volumes one and two are to be published shortly) has an obvious and catholic appeal to mixed-ability classes in rural and urban areas. Two or three of the 16 units will attract specialist interests, while "Writing a Script", "The New Noah's Ark" and "Advice to Teenagers" are admirably conceived and involving. Imaginative and original "starters" for writing and

discussion, a broad selection of featured writers (including a memorable piece from Elizabeth Taylor's *The Devastating Boys*) and illustrations which roundly extend the printed work suggest this as a wise investment accessible to O and CSE students in both fourth and fifth years. My one major complaint—and one that could be widened to take in most English text-books currently available—is the continuing stereotypical images of women at work contained in the book.

Jones, Burgen and Hosker unwittingly confute their two separate essays in the preface to *Focal English*, on the one hand suggesting to teachers that there is room for yet another O level English textbook, on the other exhorting students to achieve high examination grades. Thematically ordered under familiar headings—Conflict, Fashion, Education, Environment—the authors bring together some inviting fiction and non-fiction passages for discussion and examination-style analysis. Summary, précis, vocabulary work and level standard and have the added incentive for students that they lead on from articles, essays and illustration that pose challenging, contemporary questions.

Eliot mapped

A Student's Guide to The Selected Poems of T. S. Eliot. By B. C. Southam. Faber £1.95

This Baedeker to the well-worn landscape of T. S. Eliot's poems, developed by the cultural tourist industry to the point of exhaustion (the nightmare of insomnia of *The Waste Land* is a kind of intellectual Bendoric), has been updated. The additional material relates mainly to the manuscript of *The Waste Land* edited by T. S. Eliot's widow, and the new deposits of formation in Lyndall Gordon's *Early Years* (1977) and Helen Carter's *The Composition of Four Quartets* (1978). The overwhelming aim, however, remains that to O level students, the poems are a disadvantage of being too good, like it entered so wholeheartedly into the echo-chamber of Eliot's words, poetic as to "find no end in reading mazes lost".

Southam's study, brisker and pragmatic, still manages to take some material not in Grove's *Southam's* book, and takes useful pains to distinguish an echo from an allusion. The result is artificial, if you like—by example, the fact that a famous couplet, "In the room the women come and go/Talking of Michelangelo" is virtually a translation from a French poet must go unmentioned. However, there is still room for much interesting and not generally accessible material—for example, the last dated poem once signed himself "Thomas" is a letter to Mario Praz, or the possibly presented hypothesis that Eliot's famous notes to *The Waste Land* were compiled, presumably in some haste, from what he had to hand on his shelves. Startling, when you think that anyone should have supposed otherwise, but Eliot's intellectual, *kulturträger*-type persona seems to presuppose or insinuate a kind of omniscience. In dealing with his ceaseless and haunting illusion of a rational and "sensible" manner, book, accomplished andy-side and cultural placebo as it is, perhaps does Eliot's reputation more harm than good.

Edward Neil

Ad think

Your Choice? By Alma Williams. Longman 65p. 0 582 53849 1

This book aims to underline the question mark after its title by taking an appraising look at advertising. Where admen impose their will and copywriters, where the advertiser commands a captive audience, the hidden persuaders are behind the insidious sway.

The technique of persuasion and the impact of the verbal and visual devices employed are examined by Alma Williams as manifested in a variety of widely known advertisements. The cooler side of advertising, has us going for familiar products, and whatever is "meaty, chunky, and chewy" or "brittle and lean", it is "natural" as well, it can't fail. Nature's play on our barely acknowledged fears, whether of growing old or falling, is to match up to a stereotypical ideal, smelling bad or not being loved. It is confidence really came in toothpaste, if women were really hallelujah, stuffing their family with corned beef endlessly processing laundry, if only body lotion could amount the same products would sell anyway with no need of such disreputable methods.

"Never forget," concludes the author, "that advertisers' aims are different from consumers' aims," an obvious point all too well worth noting when the function of advertising can be defined by one child's word here as "to tell you what to buy." There should be no doubt after reading this book in any child's mind that they may tell you what to buy, but you don't necessarily have to buy it.

Jessica Sarg

Confidence booster

Philip Hytch reviews 'Science Horizons'

Science Horizons
West Sussex Science 5-14 Scheme
Coordinators: Dr J. Hudson and D. Slack
Macmillan Education, Houndmills Estate, Basingstoke, Hants. All units £4.25 each

A science course written by practising teachers and coordinated by two Advisers for science has obvious attractions, and the fact that it has been adopted as the West Sussex Science 5-14 Scheme instils further feelings of confidence.

The format is not unfamiliar, consisting simply of a series of workbooks and a teacher's handbook. The scheme is organised in levels and units, the three levels corresponding to the age ranges 5-8, 7-12 and 11-14, with level 2 being further subdivided into order to cater for the junior-middle split. The units are topic-based teaching packs designed to be used flexibly.

Each unit contains a section of background information for the teacher (this scheme is aimed at the non-specialist), worksheets of pupils' activities, suggestions for further activities, and an assessment system. Levels 2 and 3 include progress tests. The introductory pack for review contains examples for levels 1 and 2a, encompassing the 5-11 age range, and these convey an overall simplicity of design which encourages the reader. The three level 1 examples encompass topics familiar to all

teachers of young children: "Observing the Weather", "Finding Out About Ourselves", and "Soil, Seeds and Trees". In the first of these, Janet Barnes has provided an easily digestible portion of background knowledge and suggestions on how to achieve maximum value from the twelve worksheets.

Each worksheet contains a large illustration or diagram to which the text refers. There is always the problem of readability, and only the most advanced 5 or 6 year olds would be able to work unaided. With this qualification, however, the text is clear, direct and uncluttered.

The range of activities is quite considerable, there is something to do, as well as the possibility of reflection, with each activity. And there is an unmistakable feeling of being engaged in scientific enterprise here, conveyed in part by the matter-of-factness of the instructions and equally by the assumption that the pupil is capable of drawing his own conclusions, however provisional, from his activity and observation.

In "Finding Out About Ourselves" Jean Ensing continues the good work. Illustrations and questions are designed to engage pupils in objective observation of themselves. This is not too serious an affair, and opportunities for fun are present in both illustration and text, though perhaps not always intentionally. One wonders for instance how many precocious youngsters might respond to the question "What are the naughtiest things your hands can do?"



Loneliness and anger. From 'Our Feelings'.



Science and ways of working with workcards

Philip Sauvain on 'Nuffield Combined Science: Themes for the Middle Years' packs

Nuffield Combined Science: Themes for the Middle Years. Plants, Flowers, Air. General Editor: C. D. Bingham. Published for the Nuffield-Chelsea Curriculum Trust by Longman. £10.95 per pack.

Exactly why some teaching materials are published as workcards, rather than in conventional textbook form, is not always clear. The chief advantage of a kit is generally accounted to be the greater flexibility such a format offers, particularly in allowing children to work at their own pace with a minimum of supervision, and as individuals or in groups, working simultaneously on different activities and assignments.

For the same reason, such a work pattern presupposes that no programming of concepts, skills and techniques is necessary. Yet some sequencing is obviously envisaged in these three science packs, produced and tested by the Nuffield Combined Science Continuation Project. In the Teachers' Notes for *Plants*, it is recommended that "The Plastic Age" information card "should be shown to the children first", despite the fact that it is A4 in size, with eight

small photographs and minute captions, and can only be shown to two or three at a time. As there are only four such cards in the pack, it is obvious the operation cannot be carried out efficiently with a large class of children, looking at pollen, seed boxes, fruits from the shop, and so on. *Air* has study cards on *Air Everywhere*, *Breathing*, *Hot Air*, and *Air At Work*, and activities such as weighing air, air takes up space, how we breathe, making air expand and wind direction.

Longman have taken great care to give the materials strong visual appeal. The study cards are printed in full colour on one side, with as many as eight or ten photographs to illustrate the short factual text. The layouts are bright and eye-catching, and the colour of good quality, if not quite attaining the pin-sharp clarity of the best colour printing.

The relationship between the activity cards and the study cards is generally excellent, experiments and assignments on the former, consolidating information provided by the latter. Experiments testing the properties of paper and plastic bags, for instance, show how the durability of plastic can contribute to the litter problem. Many similar, stimulating exercises are presented within a framework of genuine



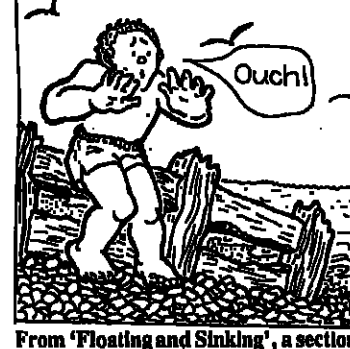
From 'Ourselves'.



From 'Floating and Sinking', a section on displacement.



From 'Floating and Sinking', a section on displacement.



From 'Floating and Sinking', a section on displacement.



From 'Floating and Sinking', a section on displacement.



From 'Floating and Sinking', a section on displacement.

The illustrations are very good, including some which are obviously caricatures and others intended to be representative (though the children consistently look rather older than the target age range). Among the activities encompassing various parts of the body, food and energy there appears a group of three worksheets on "Our Feelings". Granted that feelings are important and certainly not to be omitted from any proper study of mankind, I do wonder how many children of this age would be able to cope with questions like "How can you tell when someone feels lonely?", or "How would you help a sad friend?" Nevertheless, good marks for trying.

J. Millard and C. Smithers, the joint authors of "Soil, Seeds and Trees" expertly expound the scientific aspects of some very basic activities which most teachers have attempted at one time or another. Whilst not too much is asked of the children, all is purposeful and practicable. In all the above examples there is a welcome absence of coy comment suggesting how wonderful or amazing it all is.

The three representatives of level 2a indicate an appropriate progression, not only in the obvious things like a smaller typeface and the increased proportion of text to illustrations, but also in the practical and intellectual demands made on the children. In "What is Air?" Pamela Hine provides a total of seventeen worksheets on "Moving Air", "Squashing Air", "Air all round" and "Burning, breathing and rusting".

At this level, children are given things to do, including making hypotheses and writing answers. There are few activities that one has not encountered elsewhere, though there are some nice adaptations of familiar materials. I particularly liked the way a section of plastic guttering is used as a container for conducting sailing experiments.

"Floating and Sinking" by John Bryant provides material to challenge the eleven-year-olds as well as the younger pupils in this group. The background information contained is most useful. As an example, it includes the most concise explanation of how a heavy object may float that I have seen in years, and many non-specialists will appreciate this as well as the excellent Guide to Activities, which are both challenging and absorbing.

Colin Matthews's unit "Ourselves" is the first which could draw directly upon a first level unit and I am glad to report that reference is explicitly made to this in the section on *Planning the Core-Work*. Children are so obviously interested in themselves that it would be inept not to exploit this curiosity and criminal to diminish it. Though this unit begins with a measuring activity not too different from that at level 1, progression is soon apparent in the way the measures are used. There is a refreshing variety of activity — who would have thought of tongue-rolling as a discriminating variable to be analysed? Worksheets on "The Senses" provide an interesting range, as do those on Actions and Exercises (the

Lung Capacity experiment in this unit repeats too exactly the one in "What is Air?"). There is no section on Feelings in this unit.

The teacher's handbook, normally a crucial component of a scheme like this, turns out on examination to be almost superfluous. Apart from a rather bland and platitudinous section concerned with teaching science to various age groups, and an equally uncontroversial one about the difficulties teachers experience with this area of the curriculum, there is little that could be called essential reading that is not already included in the excellently organised units.

My overall impression of this scheme is positive. In trying to assess its potential contribution to the development of science in schools one must again stress the necessity for teachers who adopt it to digest thoroughly the excellent background material. The worksheets are very good, but they will not by themselves ensure the developing ability and confidence in pupils that the scheme is aiming at. It would be absurd to claim that all the requirements of an adequate programme for science education reside in any one particular scheme or course.

Properly used, *Science Horizons* represents a real possibility for progress; and constitutes extremely good value, for money. If there is one characteristic quality about *Science Horizons* which I would wish to single out for praise, it is its general tone of respect for pupils as learners and as developing scientists.

preparation and collation of materials beforehand and to the supervision (and sometimes tight control) of the ways in which the varying activities are carried out. If these are forthcoming, then the three combined science packs can be welcomed unreservedly.

It is worth noting, in this context, that the Teachers' Notes are excellent, providing lists of contents, succinct summaries of the aims and objectives of each pack, amplifying the facts given in the study cards, and providing clear teaching notes for each of the different activities. Reference books and visual materials are also listed, together with sources of further information, and a complete apparatus and materials list for each pack arranged in alphabetical order.

Interestingly, only one of the packs strays much beyond the immediate confines of science. The Teachers' Notes for *Air* suggest that children's interest in the subject of air can be stimulated by reading poems, such as Shelley's "Ode to the West Wind" and by looking at pictures — in particular Turner's painting "Rain, Steam, and Speed" or "Calais Pier". "If sufficiently inspired the children may be encouraged to make their own paintings and descriptions." But there is no suggestion here, that even better results might be obtained by borrowing the technique of environmental studies, and going out into a high wind and writing about that instead.

Commerce — a living subject

Practical Commerce. By John B. King. Wileston £2.25.
Commerce Today. By W. G. Skinner. Hodder and Stoughton £2.45.
A First Course in Office Practice. £2.95. Office Practice: Objective Questions. £1.20. By D. J. Thomas. Macmillan and Hyman.
Basic Office Practice Terms and Exercises. £2.75. Basic Commerce Terms and Exercises. £1.80. By S. N. Bartholomew.

Edward Arnold.
Objective Tests in Commerce. By A. R. Leal. Longman £1.60.
Exercises in Elementary Office Practice. By Margaret Rennie. Heinemann Educational £1.50.
Simple Office Projects. By Mary T. Robinson. Macdonald and Evans 95p.
Simple Office Practice. By Hazel Atkins. Edward Arnold £2.60.

Nearly all of these books are aimed at the level of examinations for the Certificate of Secondary Education and those of the Royal Society of Arts and comparable examining boards. Each of the books offers a series of revision questions in its selected field and in several instances

the author has posed his questions in the multiple choice form. Each abounds in illustrations and specimen forms: *First Course in Office Practice* and *Basic Office Practice, Terms and Exercises* are particularly strong in these respects.

Commerce Today includes a valu-

able chapter on transport and communications with an up to date map of this country's motorways and a reproduction of British Rail's Inter City network, while page 158 provides a chart of the North Sea oil and gas pipelines. Skinner's 17 chapters cover many aspects of commerce in fulfilment of his prefatorial words: "Commerce is a living subject and not a theoretical study... It involves each of us". His chapters on consumer protection and on British overseas trade are also well presented.

King's *Practical Commerce* is now in its third edition and covers much ground in common with Skinner's book. It devotes one of its longest chapters to the discriminating consumer which examines the consumer's rights and after sales service, while the preceding chapter addresses itself to saving and borrowing money.

The weightiest — by physical criteria — of the books examined here is Thomas's *First Course in Office Practice*. Its three parts consider the busi-

ness world, office work generally and aids to office work and the text is generously illustrated with photographs and facsimiles. Bartholomew's two books are compendiums for the first examinations in their respective fields. Each extends to some 1200 short paragraphs of learning matter and is rounded off with suitable revision exercises and a comprehensive index.

The last four titles in the list above are in general the most modest in the collection in respect of their size and the level of achievement of their intended readers. Besides providing revision questions in its subject matter, each book may serve a purpose in helping a prospective student to decide whether or not the implied occupation is likely to offer him a suitable métier in life. Hazel Atkins's manual of office practice is well laid out and is admirably equipped with photographs and specimen forms authentically reproduced.

Hugh Tierney

Children's literature

Beasts fishy and furry

Mr Browner Meets the Burrowers. By Philip Cardie. The Atlantic Press £3.95. 904578 88 6.
The Latchkey Dog. By Joan Dalgleish. Hodder and Stoughton £4.50. 340 26129 3.

Merman in Maida Moreton. By Jane Holday. Hodder and Stoughton £2.50. 340 25677 X.

Mr Browner Meets the Burrowers is a fantasy in which the children of Chivvy Chase School and their teacher encounter embassies from an underground civilisation. These Burrowers are becoming alarmed at the way we humans are pumping up oil from the same places as they are pumping it downwards. Before too long there will be exhaustion of reserves and Condemnation.

It is an original enough tale, told with pace and conviction, though Chivvy Chase School, a strangely anachronistic sort of place in some ways, does not really come to life for us. Many children, too, would probably appreciate more details about the world of the Burrowers and its technology.

The Latchkey Dog starts out as yet another "see - doggie - getting - lonely" plot — the "doggie" of "loving family" book. Latchkey's adventures are carried out, like shop India, in a "doggie" and "latchkey" dog. You know the sort of dog.

What makes this book work at a much more interesting level, though, is the skillful way that the story of the errant dog is carried on alongside a detailed and absorbing account of the doings of the rest of the family, who are for a long time unaware that the dog is escaping from the garden during the day. The dog himself is, like all really good fictional animals, presented as an animal and not as a dip and furry human being.

Joan Dalgleish is an Australian writer, and this gives the book yet another dimension of interest, because it portrays Australian "dogdom" life in a fascinating detail, right down to the breakfast bar and the vegetable sandwiches. There is a lovely description of a class learning "Good King Wenceslas" on the broiling hot December day. The story's background, indeed, would provide lots of discussion material for a class hearing it read aloud by the teacher.

Merman in Maida Moreton tells of the discovery of the mythical creature, half human and half fish, down an English well. The related problems of tall concealment and personal mobility provide the plot of this book. The finders of the merman (or Tylion), Cheryl and Poppy, determine to return him to the sea. It is a straightforward story full of concern and reassurance. To those who worry about such things, I hereby point out that the two central characters are female and one of them is black. The merman, however, is white and, so far as it goes, male.

Gerald Haigh

INTRODUCTORY OFFER FOR ONE MONTH ONLY SAVE £14!

REAL LIFE READING SKILLS

edited by Jim McNicholas

THE SURVIVAL KIT FOR TODAY'S TEENAGERS

REAL LIFE READING SKILLS is a workbook for today's teenagers. It will help them to cope with essential reading tasks — applying for a job, reading advertisements and insurance forms, opening a bank account, using a dictionary etc.

Each topic is based on a real life situation. The text is lively and informal, and is illustrated with cartoons and black and white photographs as well as advertisements, forms, maps and labels.

You save £14 if you order 20 copies of this reading skills workbook at the introductory price of £35. At the usual retail price, these books would cost £49. Send now to your supplier or to Scholastic Publications Ltd., Westfield Road, Southam, N. Leamington Spa, Warks. CV39 0JH

20 COPIES FOR £25!

This offer closes on 26th June, 1981, and all orders must be received by this date.

BOOKS

We accept orders for British and Overseas Publications.

MAGNA GRAECIA'S

BOOK IMPORT EXPORT — MAIL ORDER SERVICE

Tel. No: 01-837 4831 (24 hours a day — 7 days a week)

38 Mount Pleasant, No. 2 Ground Floor, London WC1X 0AP, England.

media

Health concerns

Victoria Neumark on 'Alive and Kicking'

ETV
Alive and Kicking
ATV. Eight programmes broadcast May 6-July 1 at 10.10 am, and May 8-July 3 at 9.58 am. No broadcasts in week beginning May 25.

Feelings, Growing, Looking after Young, Keeping Safe, Families, His and Hers, Waste - the second series of *Alive and Kicking* aims firmly at the emotional and social aspects of health education. The relative success of the programmes suggests that the production team might have been better advised to trim their shots rather than tackle the whole sphere of human relations under the guise of health education for infants.

As usual the seven children and their families (from Drayton Park Primary School in Birmingham) on whom the life story-cum-magazine format of the series is hinged, bring unforced charm and interest to the screen. It is clear that children's interest will be aroused by Natalie's camping weekend ("Families"), Michael being lost at the fair ("Feelings"), or Wayne dodging through an accident-prone day ("Keeping Safe"). Despite the many preparation and follow-up suggestions in the teachers' notes, however, it is less clear that this interest can be turned to any pedagogic account.

This is especially so in the first episode, *Feelings*, Michael has a birthday party to which not all of his classmates are invited. At the fun-fair he is briefly lost, which worries his parents. The children look at the animals in the zoo and are reluctant to go home. All the sequences which the notes would have you believe are there to highlight feelings are too brief, and I feel sure that a far more satisfactory exploration of the child's world could be achieved in a series of episodes dealing with, for example, the child's relationship with his family, his relationship with his friends, his relationship with his school, his relationship with his community, his relationship with his environment, his relationship with his future.

Even for children brought up with the television, the choppy editing of "rides in the ghost train" and "monster lake" is too ambiguous, as if the producer wished only to hint at some of the psychological significance of childhood.

Overselling the micro

Malcolm Peltu reviews 'Managing the Micro'

CONTINUING EDUCATION
Managing the Micro
BBC1 May 17 to June 14 (9.45 to 10.10 am); repeated BBC1 June 8 to July 13 (late evening)

The BBC's computer literacy project got off to an inauspicious start last Sunday morning. The first episode of the five-part *Managing the Micro* series was superficial and misleading. It seemed more like an advertisement overselling a new product than the kind of mature and objective exposition to be expected from a BBC Continuing Education production.

The programme oversimplified the nature of the technology and largely ignored the problems and complexities involved in creating effective computer-based systems. It also failed to take account of the many inter-related techniques that comprise information technology, which includes behavioural and information sciences as well as telecommunications, computing and microelectronics.

The term "micro" was used confusingly to indicate both micro-processors (which are small devices incorporated into other products) and microcomputers (which are complete information processing systems).

The "case studies" presented were gloriously successful, a pattern likely to be followed in the rest of the series. There was little emphasis on practical difficulties facing computer users, such as the large "hidden" costs beneath the inexpensive silicon surface; inadequate support from many of the suppliers of computers and their associated software programs; and the problems of successfully managing the human factors.

interest in terms. In striking contrast, the programme on *Moving*, contains a clear examination of skeletal and muscular structure. This is shown with action shots and classroom work, including lively sequences of professional and amateur physical recreation; weightlifters and drum majorettes. It is useful and easy to follow.

Trying to be too clever and get too much information in flawed the *Keeping Safe* programme. Multiple images of the world as a dangerous place for nine-year-old Wayne, heavily underlined by the "magic" interventions of a bleeping helmet at home and freeze-frame photography outside, are puzzlingly interrupted by a guide dog for the blind training plug. The zipping pace of Wayne's days seems to nullify the real dangers he avoids on road and building site. Even a demonstration of vehicles bashing into cardboard cut-outs at full speed is neither clear enough, nor frightening enough to work. It's just more telly.

The two final programmes in the series are the best. *His and Hers*, while a somewhat silly overview of non-sexist roles in families, does offer an example of non-stereotyped existence in the delightful Dawn, who, at eleven years old, is consumed by twin passions for motorcycle scrambling and the toilette of her Girls World doll. Waste? Is the only programme which ties in a classroom project (recycling paper) with the information about the outside world of factories, sewage works and cleaning toilets.

Although *Alive and Kicking* has been made with the best intentions, and is impeccably multi-cultural in its dramatic personnel, it can have only limited use in health education. Families, for example, interpolate sequences of three sorts of loving families - a single-parent-one-child unit in a tower block, a hearty outdoors camping weekend in the deluxe tent, and an extended Asian in a back-to-back between shots of young rabbits and foxes in their burrows. The insistence on fauna which characterises the series would lead any child to conclude, as I did myself, that the best sort of family inhabits a burrow.

Passionless history

by James Bromwich

OPEN UNIVERSITY
World Politics
BBC Television
Open University Social Sciences Course D.233.
First broadcasts: various times. Repeats on Mondays at 7.30 a.m.

This course is a second level Social Science module dealing with international politics. It examines a wide range of concepts such as the nation state, power and dependency. Television is used to introduce and describe three case studies illustrating the main 'perspectives' developed by analysts of world politics. During the last few weeks the realist position has been presented by a study of the 1945 Potsdam Conference. Pluralism follows with British Rhodesian sanctions policy and the case studies will be completed by a structuralist examination of the Lomé Convention linking the EEC and developing countries.

Such a course structure explicitly rejects the possibility of unbiased politics - what they call the 'Olympian' or 'meta' perspective - and quite rightly there is no external commentator to pose as an impartial judge between the different perspectives. The aim is to encourage essential qualities of scholarship. We will see logic and rigour being applied and are encouraged to apply our own; we will be made aware of different approaches used in this field of study and be taught to develop our own "sense of the world around us". However, although this approach banishes the mirage of the objective scholar, it has sapped the impact of the television programmes.

OU students are being deprived of what those in traditional universities quickly learn: that strong convictions produce conflict and controversy. It is this element of passion that is missing. Television can, of course, provide the student with useful experiences not easily found elsewhere. Eden, Gladwyn and Harriman are seen recollecting events and interpreting the words and actions of the Big Three, such as Charles Meo and Daniel Yergin. There are also scenes reconstructed from primary written sources.

It is difficult to assess the value of these. They help to bring alive the conflicting personalities, policies and states in the process of negotiation, but at the cost of distracting us by the standard of acting and the realism of the drama. On balance, however, the

low key approach with the minimum of theatrical effects is an advantage here and allows maximum concentration on the dialogue.

Course students who have done background reading will enjoy hearing scholars express their views and explain their sources, whether written records or the reminiscences of participants. The programmes will also provide an incentive to further study. Unfortunately it is so fast that few students could easily absorb the line of argument and take useful notes on the mass of information provided. The course stresses the value of videotaping, though at current machinery costs this could be discouraging for the OU student.

The feeling that the series avoids expressing real conviction is most strongly conveyed by its presentation of the 'perspectives'. When applied to Potsdam, Northedge's claim that "the Great Powers have the capacity to determine the future of other members of the international system" does seem trite, especially when displayed on a screen at the beginning and end of two programmes. It hardly puts the realists under much pressure to examine a case which shows the Great Powers at their most powerful, unconstrained by conventional behaviour.

The case study chosen to illustrate the pluralist perspective is unsatisfactory in a similar way. Once again an aspect of international affairs is chosen that most readily fulfils a thesis - in this case, that foreign policy is determined by internal, not external, needs. Another criticism is that the main question which must be faced by any serious academic examination of the Rhodesian crisis - why did the British government choose sanctions and not force - is raised but not confronted.

The first programme on Rhodesian sanctions policy will feature an interview with Sir Arthur Snelling, a Department Under Secretary working at that time in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He argues that the RAF was the key to any action and that Rhodesia had been extensively settled by RAF personnel after the second world war. The whole implication of the interview is that this Service at least would not act against Rhodesian rebellion.

Is this true, and the reason why Healey counselled against force? Was there the risk of mutiny, comparable to that threatened at Armagh in 1914?

The programme slides away from any of these questions to discuss the much easier and delightfully complex issues raised by the tightrope the British government trod in an effort to pretend it had a positive policy.

Briefings

Radio & tv

OU and general interest

An Anatomy of Reading. (Sunday, 06.15 VHF3)

Describes research carried out at Brunel University where styles of writing are defined and reading strategies classified.

Eastern Europe: Equality Since the Revolution. (Sunday, 06.35 VHF3, Tuesday, 23.55 VHF3)

A discussion on the ideologies of equality in communist society. Features special recordings made in Poland and Hungary.

Economic Crises. (Sunday, 06.35 BBC2)

A comparison of the Keynesian and Marxist theories of economic depression. The example used is the 1930 depression, but similarities are drawn between the 30s and the present day.

Million Pound Man. (Sunday, 10. Thursday, 07.05 BBC2)

The "Risk" course this week examines the physical risks involved in piloting the RAF's million pound Harrier jump jet.

Any Old Copper. (Wednesday, 10.00 BBC2)

Explores the viability of reclaiming materials from scrap. Here high grade copper is recovered from smelting old telephone exchanges.

Jumpers. (Wednesday, 18.30 BBC2)

The Arts Foundation commissions a unit on philosophy with a production of Tom Stoppard's play starring Michael Hordern.

It Figures. (Sunday, 11.00 BBC1)

Jimmy Young's Guide to Everyday Maths concentrates on how to use and interpret graphs and maps, and deals at statistics.

The Dishonourable and Unpleasant Transaction. (Tuesday, 19.00 Radio 3)

The story of how a historic press almost destroyed Wellington's career. Presented by Michael Glover with Martin Jarvis as Wellington.

The Legion is My Country. (Tuesday, 19.50 Radio 4)

A programme charting the history of the French Foreign Legion.

Euromagazine. (Tuesday, 23.00, Friday, 23.00 VHF4)

The last of the topical programmes for advanced speakers of Spanish. Next week similar programme in Spanish begins.

Beware danger spots!

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Play It Safe 10 ten-minute programmes, BBC1, Sundays from October 4. To be previewed around the country as part of the "Play It Safe" campaign.

Each year, apparently, more than 1,300 children are killed in accidents and around 140,000 are admitted to hospital. Scandinavian experience suggests that it is possible to cut down these figures by a combination of education and legislation. Action of this kind is currently being prepared in Britain, and spearheaded by a series of ten-minute BBC programmes under the title *Play It Safe*. They will be broadcast this autumn on Sunday evenings.

Apart from directly conveying information on accident dangers and prevention, one of the central purposes of the series is to encourage parents to write in for a free booklet to be distributed by the Health Education Council and the Scottish Health Education Group. A million copies of this pamphlet are being prepared.

The BBC and its expert consultants see it as vital to reach, through a massive network of local initiatives, and by using a series of public meetings at which all ten programmes will be shown, followed by comment and discussion. The BBC is also producing a

monthly bulletin. This is already distributed to three thousand people who are concerned with child accident prevention.

As an example of the kind of local initiative they are looking for, the BBC cite the Argyle and Clyde Health Board who have selected priority areas for the campaign. In these areas it is hoped that health visitors will visit every household with a child under five. All primary schools are being asked to take part in the campaign. Along with youth groups and voluntary bodies, local committees of commerce are being asked to promote safety competitions, and shopkeepers are asked to organise displays around safety and accident prevention. Social workers are to try and involve elderly people who might be in charge of children, such as grandparents and aunts and uncles.

The *Play It Safe* series itself has the great advantage of being presented by Jimmy Saville, who is apparently the most trusted media figure in the country. This is understandable from his performance in these programmes, in which he radiates a patient and impressive sincerity. His speech rhythms and gestures are so unorthodox for a TV front man that, at first, they seem abnormal. Then one realises that here is a person being real.

The content of the programmes is hard-hitting and even upsetting - as it needs to be. By the BBC's own criteria, four of the ten are "shocking": shots of broken-glass wounds, burns, shattered survivors, but clearly only this sort of presentation stands a chance of getting parents out of their seats and checking round the home for danger spots. The most powerful moments in the programmes are the interviews with parents of damaged children, and their heartfelt advice to other parents: don't make the same mistake as us.

by Nick Thomas

One disturbing aspect of the whole child safety campaign is an ill thought-out emphasis on the fact that most accidents occur to children whose parents are in "social groups 4 and 5". Some specialists seem to ignore the obvious environmental and material factors involved (how many "social group 1" parents live in tower blocks for example?) and to imply that the responsible for their children's deaths is paternalism from which Jimmy Saville's programme is a self-defeating exercise.

The series of public meetings referred to above has already begun and will continue into the summer. Details of these, copies of the booklet, and other information can be obtained from Dav Cook, Play It Safe, BBC Broadcasting Centre, PO Box 1111, Road, Birmingham B3 7QQ.

A very uncomfortable year for the BBC; a year of high visibility for independent television.
Liz Heron and Felicity Grant examine the present position of educational broadcasting.

ITV: inter-company liaison and contact with the consumer

It has been a high visibility year for independent television. Decisions were made about the franchise awards, breakfast television and the Fourth Channel and they all got a good deal of coverage, at least in column inches. Outside the pages of specialist papers and journals, however, the arena of debate was small. Since for the most part the structures of broadcasting remain mysterious and relatively inaccessible to genuine public participation, there is a lot of inertia.

Perhaps in the area of educational broadcasting there is more active concern and interest on the part of consumers. For one thing, educational television is not just consumed, but is used as a tool, within a framework of discussion and questioning. Nor is it watched as part of the "flow" that, in the course of an evening's viewing at home, can blur programme distinctions and dull the edge of critical faculties. It is also the area where, within the independent network, there is greatest and often most fruitful collaboration between the companies, and greater contact with the programme users.

The nature and extent of that contact, together with a number of other proposals, is currently under discussion. The new franchise period begins in January 1982. Before the awards were made at the end of last year, the Independent Broadcasting Authority put forward a series of new conditions and guidelines for change in relation to education. Some of these are concrete, while others have yet to be defined and negotiated.

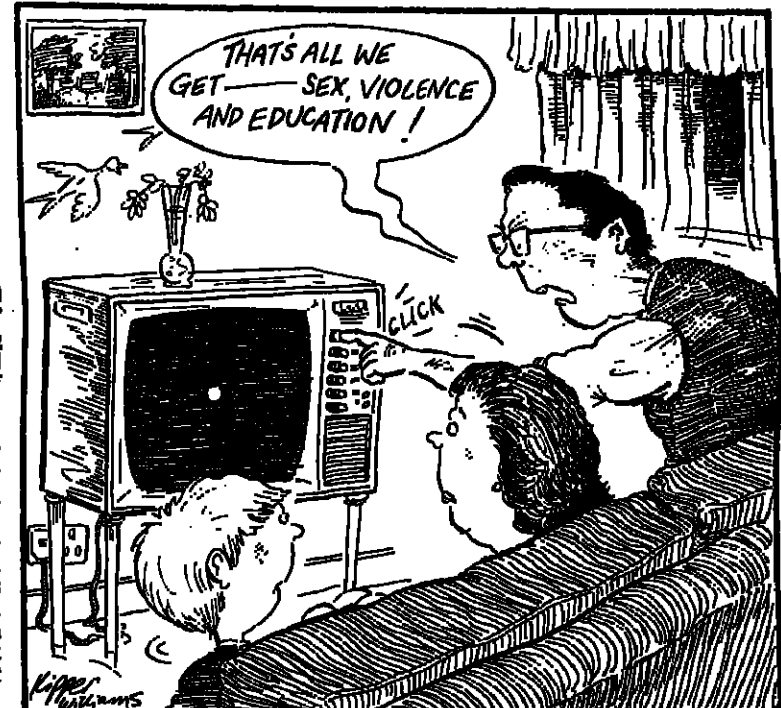
All these proposals were on the agenda at a workshop meeting of company education staff, senior company management and IBA officers in Harrogate from May 12-15. There are plans to hold annual meetings of this kind. On the Schools side, the first corresponding get-together is to be held in October. The proposed improvements in liaison arrangements will be discussed. Among these is the recommendation that each of the four major companies numbers two or more education liaison officers among its staff, in addition to a community education officer.

Granada's education officer, Brian Nixon, thinks that his company may be already at the required level with himself and a full-time assistant education officer. Yorkshire currently has one education officer. Likewise ATV, which will in any event be carrying out major restructuring changes, since its franchise award was conditional on the company reconstituting itself. As a consequence, its plans are tentative.

Thames is in a unique position, with five education officers who combine the roles of education officer in the liaison sense, with associate producer. While in the other companies the role usually means links with schools and other agencies, filtering comments and ideas back to the production base and following up broadcasts, in addition to these functions the Thames officers are much more closely involved in making programme decisions. Each is attached to a particular series or groups of programmes.

This role has a logical connection with proposed new quota arrangements that would mean that each region's three hours of adult education would include one hour of local/social concern programming. The Thames programme falls into this latter category, and suggests a model for IBA thinking. Help, which has been running for four years, demonstrates the importance of developed community links. Two workers from Community Service Volunteers have been involved over two years, and at times as many as five link people have been involved. Help will continue, and to complete the quota Thames is also planning local links on youth and the old.

Some cases the community education officer will also be concerned with "educative" general out-reach, something the IBA is keen to promote. Kim Taylor, head of education at the Authority, feels that "the



education officer Michael Scarborough calls "the advantage of direct contact between the company and the shop floor". Yorkshire's double award-winning social history series *How We Used to Live* profited from substantial contact with schools and groups of teachers: "This gave us a good measure of the sort of style, pace and content that was most relevant. And it led to a new series", says Michael Scarborough. The idea for Yorkshire's *Insight* series for deaf and partially hearing children - the only one of its kind in ITV - came from a head with a unit for partially hearing children in his school.

It is generally agreed that the report card system used throughout the network to gather information about responses to programmes has the drawback of supplying only partial information, but that it is useful as one of several prongs in encouraging teacher involvement, particularly if used vigorously.

Among new programme plans since the franchise awards is a series by Thames on craft design and technology. This idea is in response to the IBA's requests for more attention to the subject area, in the light of DES statements. "The series will provide the core of a course and its supporting print material will be more akin to a textbook than the usual booklet", says executive producer, Peter Scroggs.

Thames' strength and its specialisms in the network are English and languages. One programme in its *Writers' Workshop* series last year won a Special Jury Award at the San Francisco International Film Festival. But many of its programmes are suited to an integrated, interdisciplinary approach. *The English Programme*, for instance, as well as presenting curriculum oriented productions like *Macbeth*, is wide-ranging in its concerns, as are *Living in Britain* and *Living in Europe*.

In contrast, Granada is unashamedly traditional in its approach to the curriculum and its programmes are more subject-specific. "Our innovations are within the traditional framework. I suspect we probably come nearer to the BBC in the kind of programmes we do," says Brian Nixon. Science is Granada's strong area, providing a very high proportion of the network output, and future programme plans include a physics series for 14-15 year olds.

Their politics series is currently the only one in the network, but Yorkshire is coming up with some political education programmes, an idea that emerged from discussions with teachers following their *Making a Living* series. They are also launching *Ten Times Economics*, a series aimed at sixth formers that will examine ten key economic issues and the theories behind them. Michael Scarborough feels Yorkshire's programming is probably moving away from an interdisciplinary approach, given the DES guidelines for a concentration on the core curriculum and the effects they

BBC: unkind cuts and rigorous reviews

"Thinking back, the last twelve months have probably been the most uncomfortable. I think I now tend to say, with luck, that we're over the worst." BBC Controller of Education, Don Gratton, has had reason for discomfort. In the two year plan of £130m cuts, announced by Director General, Ian Trethowan, last January, the Education department has taken at least its fair share of the financial burden. Possibly more daunting, it has also been the subject of a rigorous review by the BBC "think tank", the Future Policy Group.

Even the most confident headteacher has some sense of unease when the HMI's descend on his territory. The "think tank" must be worse, for they are professional broadcasters, not educationists; the realm of tacit assumption and shared interest has no place in the ground rules. The Education department accounted for close on £17m of the BBC's purse in 1979-80 (the Open University's grant of over £5.4m from the DES is separate) and it also eats into a sizeable slice of air time.

Air time is a sensitive subject in a climate where the BBC has felt increasingly obliged to play out a ratings battle with ITV, emphasising its popularity and thus rationalizing a realistic licence fee campaign. And the channel controllers of both TV and radio are sometimes less than ecstatic about a department which feeds programmes of a largely "minority interest" into their schedule but whose budget and policy is out of their control.

With Schools radio confined to Radio 4 VHF and television to morning and early afternoon, the problems are currently marginal. Continuing Education and the Open University present more of a conflict where they make inroads into evening viewing. (Though it should be noted that the Pilkington Report of 1962 extended the hours of broadcasting precisely to enlarge the provision of "further education".)

But broadcasting professionals in general are often not over enamoured of educational programming. Partly, they're suspicious of the battery of "the good and the worthy" to whom the product is accountable, both structurally and in the day-to-day ebb and flow of programme uptake. And there's also a patronising backlash from a tradition of broadcasting moguls whose roots are in the partially romanticized world of "investigative journalism" and who regard the world of education as, frankly, "soft". But significantly too, the massive post war expansion of education has taken place in a context of relative professional insularity - one which has, at least at the curricular level, largely protected itself from the political agenda and rigorous scrutiny. A thousand flowers have bloomed and educational broadcasting has been left to get on with tending them.

The Annan Report, of 1977, took something of a swipe at education programmes, however, through Lord Kilgobry and the Standing Conference on Broadcasting, who told us that "there was very little valid evidence that broadcasting was an effective educational medium." It's a swipe which has not been forgotten by broadcasters, despite the subsequent political panic about fast escalating numbers of unemployed school leavers and an underskilled work force. But the BBC could always point to Channel 4 and the 15% of its output earmarked for education

continued on next page

Liz Heron

broadcasting

continued from previous page
when it starts to transmit in Autumn '82.

The stakes were not small then, in both the organization of education programming and its quantity, when the Future Policy Group moved in. The far from certain prize has been the larger therefore, for Gratton and his staff. For not only did the report, with minor reservations, endorse the work of the department, it pressed for recognition of it at the highest level and projected an enhanced role for it in the future.

The new Chairman of the BBC, George Howard, has duly and publicly affirmed the Corporation's commitment to education. The Home Office too, in an uncharacteristically aggressive advertising campaign, at the start of the year, hounded licence dodgers with the thought that their children's education was suffering because they hadn't paid up. YOUR KIDS NEED THE TV LICENCE EVEN MORE THAN YOU DO makes a refreshing change from the more usual headline over the innocent being led astray by over exposure to the box.

So... there have been headaches down at the BBC. Its not easy to pare money off already tightly stretched programme budgets. Staffing has been reduced, partly by "freezing" posts. As the Schools Broadcasting Council's circular to schools last October announced, 23 radio series and their accompanying publications have gone, so too have eight television programmes, with more carrying a reduced budget.

But at least there's light now at the end of the tunnel and the staff feel optimistic about minimizing the impact of the cuts and planning future programme policies. The thoughts of Head of Continuing Education, TV, Sheila Innis, were echoed by a number of staff. "The programme cuts were painful. But I believe it makes you sit down and take a look at what the priorities are. It leads to much more rigour. Its a good worked the position too badly not to try to effect a comprehensive service."

Indeed, there's almost an embarrassment of riches to be plundered amongst the output of the Education department. In 1979-80, Continuing Education TV originated 128 hours of programming and offered 298 hours of repeats; radio originated 107 hours, with 213 of repeats. Schools television originated 92 1/2 hours, with 426 hours of repeats and radio a staggering 375 hours of new programming with 139 of repeats. Radio is, of course, a good deal cheaper to produce than television and since a large proportion of the costs come from performers' fees, there's not a great deal to be saved financially by repeats. It's a highly cost effective means of reaching small audiences, for a level work, for example. But it's also a highly evocative means of communicating ideas and effects way beyond the budgetary scope of television. There's little doubt though



that Schools Radio is under pressure to rationalize and maximize its resources carefully, the plans for which are currently being developed by its new Head, Claire Chovil.

There's also a new Head of Schools TV, John Prescott Thomas is anxious to haul the production schedule for new programmes back up to 200 for 1982-83. Repeats in educational broadcasting have a real value but to depend on them too heavily during the present cash crisis is to store up trouble for the future. "We need to be able to respond to new movements in schools, we've got to be able to react to educational developments." Part of that will come in the development of small units of programmes, or more accurately, "resources". "An awful lot of what we do will move away from the 28 slot series, although it does attract great 'brand loyalty'."

Series they will still be, but the unit approach offers both greater flexibility to pilot and experiment with programmes and more freedom for the teacher to adapt material to specific needs. There's also going to be some re-packaging of existing material, not least where there are substantial curriculum overlaps in series. Life, skills and careers advice one which is ripe for this approach.

One of the biggest headaches for the Education department, though, concerns the print material which accom-

panies programmes. The Schools section has to break even and Continuing Education has to make a small profit in the face of greatly increased printing costs and diminished financial resources in educational institutions and amongst the general viewing audience.

The harsh word of priorities going to be most noticeable here. Whilst Smith's Cookery Course sells into the *Sunday Times* best seller list, other publications just aren't economic. In the Schools area, many pupils' and some teachers' notes are economically unviable to produce. There are some heroic attempts to get round the problem in the form of typescript sheets for the price of a postage stamp - but the heyday of almost ludicrously cheap and well produced publications has gone.

Continuing Education is doing flourishing business with outside agencies like the Health Education Council and the EEC Social Fund for back-up materials and reaching a large sector of the needy public as a result. It may be that, with curriculum development, agencies like the DES, the Department of Industry and MGC will also offer the Schools section back-up resources. But that's pure speculation, and one which is tinged with a sense of the need for caution by the BBC in being too readily buffeted around in the winds of political change for education.

The Schools Broadcasting Council is currently undertaking its own review of programming provision and Continuing Education is debating policy and scheduling for some of its more general output with the channel controllers. But at the end of the day, education is alive and well at the BBC. No one knows what future impeccunies the Corporation will suffer but it is reassuring to know that in pursuit of its priorities, it has re-discovered that education is one. If the world of education is to be persuaded to examine its use and needs of broadcasting with equal energy, the two institutions could travel quite some way in alleviating a recession that has hit rather more than the BBC.

Felicity Grant

'Ghetto broadcasting'

Edward Fennell on a Danish radio station designed exclusively for young people

"To make a new radio station exclusively for young people was our aim in '73 in setting up Programme 4," said Estrid Olsen of Danish Radio. Now eight years later they seem to have succeeded. Not that it has been without problems. In the early days incensed Danish Parliamentarians demanded its closure accusing it of being a "subversive influence." But P4 (as it is now called) survived and now feels relatively secure. "Sure we present views critical of society," said one P4 journalist, "but they are only the opinions of our listeners, and that is what we are being paid to do: present their views."

Like most institutions in Denmark P4 is small. Serving a population of only five million the constraints on Danish Radio (the equivalent of the BBC) are considerable. There is room for only one TV Channel and three radio stations called, confusingly, "Programmes".

When in the early 70s youth broadcasting became a major priority, the key question was how to squeeze it in. The DR was keen to create a clear-cut fresh identity for its new experiment and was wary of getting youth programmes tangled up with the rest of its more conventional output. The solution was to take out a slab from one of the existing stations (Programme One) and hand it over to the new unit.

The big problem was that P1 (Programme One), into which it was slotted, had a reputation for serious talk and a concentration on minority interests. No teenager, voluntarily, would ever switch it on. That was one of the motives behind the "P4" image but also because there was a feeling that where young people were concerned 'ghetto broadcasting' could well be the right approach.

However, the ghetto had to be in the right place. Preliminary research showed that Sunday evening was the best time and, on that basis, a full three-and-a-half hours was handed over to the P4 team to provide a service for thirteen-to-nineteen year olds.

Nine journalists currently work on P4, each with a special subject-responsibility (such as Danish news, world affairs, personal and family problems, education) and together they put together each week about two hours of documentary and feature items.

Among the most popular are the phone-ins. Unlike most of their British equivalents, however, these are pre-recorded and edited. There is a twenty-four hour, seven days a week "open line" to P4 allowing anyone to phone anything at all. Choice extracts are then stitched together to produce a kind of dialogue on issues of topical

concern. There is also a telephone counselling service.

Attempts have been made with "access" work but no great success is reported. Instead kids talk into the microphone in bars and clubs and the results are recorded. This, it is claimed, gives adequate coverage of young people's views without the practical and technical problems of true access programmes.

Editorial control therefore remains in the hands of the professionals, but Danish liberalism is felt to be so vigorous that there seem to be no anxieties on this score. Whatever young people on the streets are saying, P4 will present it without fear or favour: at least that's what is claimed.

In fact one of the original aims of P4 was that it should stimulate some amongst young people, also reading the least educated. In this content the problem of youth unemployment was to play a major part. Denmark, almost as much as Britain, has seen a massive decline in job opportunities for young people.

As experiences elsewhere have confirmed, however, the subject is not as easy one to present. The subject-matter is gloomy and the range of issues is limited. In order to be effective it is necessary to present alternatives to unemployment - not simply dire warnings of its inevitability.

So the section was renamed "Your Time - Your Future" with the emphasis on choice. But despite this switch to a positive approach the section continues to provide a vehicle for criticism of the shortcomings of the Danish education and training system and of, for example, the way in which young people are treated in jobs.

Whether such an approach could be sustained in Britain is difficult to assess. Although P1's audience is broad both socially and educationally, it manages to maintain a high proportion of serious-minded discussion.

Maybe that reflects a national characteristic of the Danes - an earnest concern which we do not share. More significantly perhaps Danish broadcasters were taking advantage of the fact that (until recently) it had no radio from within or outside the D.R. system. Channel hopping is not a Danish practice. Just now, however, things have changed. The Programme 3 (light music station) is beginning a new, mostly British, "pop" programme on Sunday evenings. The P4 team is worried: it is waiting anxiously to see whether its conscientious endeavours can survive the onslaught of "radio" from England, Adam and de Aze and Ultra Vox!

Natalie Hodgson reports

on a recent visit to a variety of educational institutions

in China. Photographs by Richard

and Sally Greenhill

Working to learn

"The headmaster returns after lessons to sweep out the school". Our eyes were shot up, as we tried to imagine our own dignified headmaster with dustpan and brush in the corridors of the local comprehensive.

We asked eagerly about discipline and under-achievers, but were assured that these were not problems in China. School have no corporal punishment, and slow pupils are coerced, first by their parents and teachers, then by their class monitors, and finally by a period of self-assessment and public criticism.

"And high fliers?" we asked. Their reward is an extra stint at a special school after hours. Gradually a picture of the whole education system in China unfolded itself, nurseries, kindergartens, village schools, primary schools and finally a large city comprehensive - co-educational and two thousand strong.

A Chinese mother generally will return to work 56 days after the birth of her baby, to an eight-hour day and a six-day week. The baby will go to a day nursery from 8am to 6pm, every day except Sunday.

At the age of two, children transfer to kindergarten and education begins. They learn Chinese language, counting, art and music. When we visited one, the children acted a little play for us, depicting the find of oil. Dressed in dungarees, helmets and bandannas (plastic) spencers, they pulled a plastic pipe across the arena with enthusiasm. The effect was enchanting.

From the age of two months, the state has the children for virtually every waking hour, and for good or evil it must have an overwhelming influence. There is no litter, no vandalism, and public places are decorated with exquisite collages, which it would be unthinkable for anyone to damage. No-one would ever kiss in public, or even hold hands.

Throughout their long civilisation, the Chinese have always despised manual labour and the labouring class (as indeed other nations also do, even though they do not always admit it). The communists are trying hard, probably unsuccessfully, to give dignity and esteem to hard physical work and the worker. Education sets out to inspire pupils with a love of work, so from primary school onwards, they are re-

quired to contribute to society. At this age, they are taught to plant trees, to clear snow in winter, and to kill flies. How they accomplish this we never discovered, but the proud boast - there are no flies in China - seemed largely true. At a temperature of 90°F, in a piggery, there was not a fly to be seen, and throughout our visit we were never troubled by them.

It was admitted that education in the country is shorter and inferior to that of the big towns. Physics exam papers were written on a wall: the mixture of Chinese hieroglyphics and physics made our heads spin.

The comprehensive school for two thousand was forbidding: bare unpainted walls, bare concrete floors, classes of 50 sitting in rows of desks with the teacher before them with chalk and blackboard. The pupils stood to answer questions.

They learn 13 subjects, Chinese, politics, mathematics, two foreign languages, physics, chemistry, history, geography, agriculture, hygiene, music and art, in addition to some sport. Each large secondary school has a full-time doctor who looks after health and teaches hygiene.

There is a factory unit attached, and the younger pupils spend one day a week at work there. When we visited it, they were assembling bus indicator arms. The older pupils go out to local factories for one day a week. They all spend eight months in school, one month in a factory, one month in the country working on the land, and have two months' holiday. This is to show that work and learning and agriculture are of equal importance.

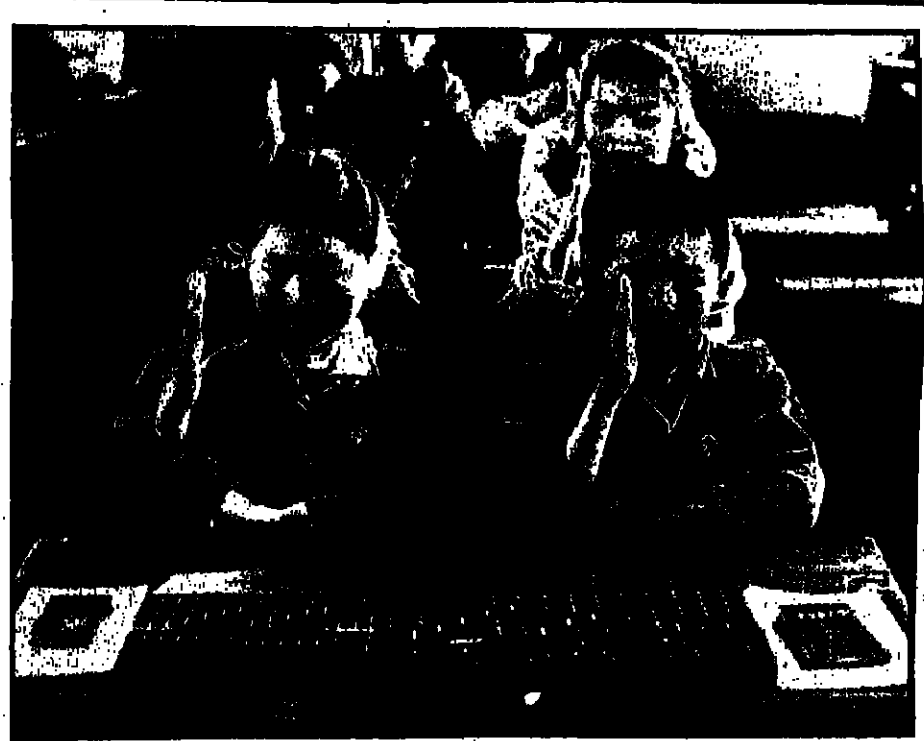
Children are obviously under great pressure at school. Unless they pass the necessary state exams, they cannot attend a university, which is the gateway to a better life. Moreover, those who do not go on to higher education are assigned jobs according to their teachers' reports. So there are no discipline problems.

One came away perplexed. Freedom such as we know is non-existent, but everybody appears gentle and smiling, happy, and enormously welcoming. Are we missing out, or are they?

Natalie Hodgson is a former member of the Shropshire Education Committee.



Above: Primary children building an extension to their own school. Left: Number work in a Nanking primary school. Bottom left: A factory creche in Shanghai. Bottom right: Music classes allow children to use instruments both ancient and modern.



Opportunities to pinch ourselves awake from the television dream

The Language of Television: Uses and Abuses
by Albert Hunt
Byre Methuen, £5.95 (hardback)
£2.95 (paperback)

Albert Hunt believes that television can be used to educate people for democracy, to enable them to understand, control and change their environment. His book, video-cassette attempts to harness the power of television entertainment to this end. In his opinion, shows such as *Morecambe and Wise*, *The Sweeney*, *The Two Ronnies* and *Porridge*, are sceptical, irreverent, and demystifying, and have a hidden curriculum which teaches us "to look with less reverence at the official version of reality than 'serious' television has to offer."

Hunt comments on *The Two Ronnies* "goodnight from me... goodnight from him" routines "for a moment the ritual of the *Nine O'Clock News* and *News at Ten* are seen for what they are: rituals." He suggests that there are two ways forward from such insights. One can use conventional academic methods to de-

scribe and analyse television. *Viewpoint* is cited in this context, which is unfortunate since the series made a deliberate effort to convey information through entertainment, in the form of songs and sketches. The other option is to take television as the language of television entertainment itself - a language shared, understood and enjoyed by the great majority of people whom the language of education has so obviously failed.

The core of the book describes the making of three videotapes, which take the second approach: a remake of *The Maltre Falcon*, with Sam Spade as the astronomer Johann Kepler, the self-explanatory *Spies at Work*, and *Open Night*. This last was the first project, and was made in reply to a Granada series, *Open Day*, which was intended to give parents information about new developments in secondary education.

"One of the biggest problems we faced was that of inventing our own television language... We began by inventing a number of video games. One of the most noticeable results was to make the participants talk more readily. The

random cutting game required two people each to look into a camera, to speak only when they were being recorded, and in so doing participate in a dialogue controlled by a third person mixing the shots in accordance with moving cards drawn at random.

Hunt says "we discovered that turning the invention of dialogue into a game freed people from all the television conventions - but it is not clear exactly which conventions are being referred to and to what extent the school-leavers involved can have been aware of breaking them (both in front of and behind the camera) without sooner or later resorting to the kind of academic analysis of which the author is understandably wary."

Rejection of the academic approach is a constant theme of the book. Discussing the literary hurdle placed before a student wishing to enter a videotape instead of an essay for an 'A' level in Communication, including requirements for a definition of the target audience, and a script giving full instructions for a production, Hunt comments:

"Such requirements take video - which to me, is valuable precisely because it offers a non-literary way of creating - back into a safe academic prison."

While agreeing with his objections to scripting for the sake of it, Hunt insists that it is necessary at least to visit some of these academic prisoners from time to time, as did Hunt and his group during the making of *Open Night*. "While we were playing video games and making tapes with school-leavers, we were also reading up on educational history. We were looking for a central image around which we could build our programme."

It becomes clear as we read the descriptions of the three projects that Hunt is talking not so much about the language of television as about several languages, both verbal and visual, some of them currently dominant in broadcast television, some of them latent in certain ways of using video. Hunt appears to be trying to synthesize the best elements of all these different ways of speaking into a kind of audio-visual esperanto.

There is evidence of some success in developing such a language in a tape called *The Grand Grand Fun Show*, whose production Hunt describes at the end of his book. The tape is a treated version of a well known recording of an Australian rules football match, expanded to include comments from players, team coach and spectators.

shows how, by playing the tape back to the supporters club with the players present, a particular football team - in this instance a public house - can rework its public image by a deliberate intervention in a cliché example of media coverage.

Until television has become a common carrier in our society (Hunt says makers in our society (Hunt) suitably disparaging about the ghettos of programmes like *Open Door*) then some kind of semi-structured, of real programmes, copyright problems notwithstanding - along the lines of the *Open Night* experiment, would seem to offer the better opportunity to pinch ourselves awake from the television dream.

Roger Stephens



Lois Rodgers on women and work

The argument for paying women less was that they were dependent on either their husbands or their parents, thus precluding any motive such as poverty. Public concern centred on their health—damage to generations unborn or neglect of existing children. It was government policy that women should act as male substitutes to keep

The one-third considered to be in "grave" ill health were older (aged 30-50) with a higher number of pregnancies. (One person had had 22). The only money available to manual workers wives and children was from the life insurance policy. In 1911 was a 30 shillings maternity grant. Any other complaints, from toothache to a prolapsed uterus, came out of housekeeping. A Ministry of Health investigation in the thirties failed to establish any "positive correlation between maternal mortality and social class, overcrowding or unemployment". Women had to wait until

skilled agricultural jobs decreased after 1939, although the shift was not into skilled industrial work but into white collar positions. The majority of those in the medical professions are now women and the number of female engineers is striking. Managerial responsibility remains the prerogative of men.

It is not the intention of the Soviet government in granting women equal rights to transfer the responsibility for the family into the hands of the state. During the twenties the urban intelligentsia hoped government benefits such as child care centers would reduce the new communists

Can women expect any more relief from such exploitation when a report from New Zealand to the International Labour Organisation can say: "Successful governments have been very reluctant to see policy changes which would encourage mothers in general to undertake the dual role of worker and mother, believing that mothers are 'workers' in that they are the operatives in the most important industry in New Zealand's future. It is felt that the country would have to lose if a mother's task was devolved to that of an exacting, unloving chore."

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**
**CORRY, BEANFIELD COUNTY
JUNIOR SCHOOL**
Department of HEAD
TEACHER - GROUP 6

Required for January 1988, a male, experienced teacher for the above post is this well-known Junior school serves an area of mixed housing on the Wood Estate. Closing date: 30th June.

Further details and forms to be sent to the County Education Officer, (see advertisement in the Northampton Evening News, Northampton, NN 2 8EX (06016) 010-39

**WILTSHIRE
WILTSHIRE PRIMARY
HEADSHIPS**

**DILTON MARSH INFANTS
SCHOOL**
High Street, Dilton Marsh,
Westbury BA13 3DF

Group 2 No. on Roll 70

Head Teacher required from
January 1982.

Application form and further
details (S.A.S. please) send and
returnable to: Chief Education
Officer, County Hall, Trow-
bridge, Wiltshire BA14 8TB by
15th June 1981. (06470) 010-80

Applications are welcome from teachers experienced in teaching junior and/or infant children.

Application forms and further details may be obtained from the Education Officer, Cambs Education Office, 100, High Street, Huntingdon, Cambs PE10 1AA. (0455 511188)

Closing date 8 June. (05392)

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

HUNTINGDON AREA
HUNTINGDON COUNTY INFANT SCHOOL
 80, Ambury Road, Huntingdon
 Applications are invited for the Deputy Headship of this Infant School.

Application forms and further details may be obtained from the Education Officer, Gasleay House, Prince Street, Huntingdon, Cambs PE10 1AA. (0455 511188)

Closing date 8 June. (05392)

DEVON

Forms available from (SAs) and returnable to Canon Montgomery, c/o St. Christopher's Rectory, 81 Gt. Ouse Avenue, Liverpool, L34 0JN by post, or by hand to the Rectory, 81 Gt. Ouse Avenue, (0735) 011-13.

SUFFOLK

EDGAR SEWTER C.P. SCHOOL, Norwich Road, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP20 9JL.
Required from September or January 1982 a DEPUTY HEAD (0535) 511-13.
application forms and details from the Headteacher at the school.
Closing date: 1st June, 1982 (0535) 011-13.

SUNDERLAND

BOROUGH OF SUNDERLAND EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
NEWBOTTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

DYMRCHURCH COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE
Required for September 1981
qualified experienced class
who could offer specialist
of the
Mathematics, Science, Audio
Aids, Signs 2 Post for
candidates.
Application forms available
and returnable to the
Education Officer,
Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19
by 31 June 1981 (S.A.E.)
MUNDELLA COUNTY PR
Black Seal Road, Folkestone,
CT19 5QK
Application forms for September
Teacher for Lower Junior
responsible for Science and
Mathematics.
Application forms and in
formation available from
Education Officer,
Officer, 3 Shorncliffe Road,
Folkestone, Kent, CT19 2AQ. Cl
31 June 1981. (S.A.E.)

TEACHER in the Junior High School. Details see our advertisement in the **October 1981** issue.

Scale 1 Posts

CORNWALL

EDUCATION COMM.
ST. MARTIN'S C. OF
ANGLICAN INFANT'S SCH.
WIMBORNE

Required for Septe-
mber 1981. Christian
teachers. Please at-
tend. This is a
post for one year.
Application form
obtained from The
Diocese and should be returned
to the Education Officer
Scheme. (06683)

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

INDEPENDENTLY

BY SUB-

015-80

OFFICE

E. J. JOHNSON

POOL

NUMBER 1961, s

n to teach

in other in-

TEMPORARY

" may be

Hendriachor.

ed by 20 May.

aval Exchange

015-80

Basil Blackwell Publishers

8 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JF

County Council _____

tails by 22nd May, 1968. 17. 011-40

... ..

...the ...

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age is expected to increase by 1.5 billion, from 1.1 billion in 1990 to 2.6 billion in 2010. The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase by 1 billion, from 350 million in 1990 to 1.4 billion in 2010. The number of people aged 15-64 is expected to increase by 1.5 billion, from 2.5 billion in 1990 to 4.0 billion in 2010. The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase by 1 billion, from 350 million in 1990 to 1.4 billion in 2010. The number of people aged 15-64 is expected to increase by 1.5 billion, from 2.5 billion in 1990 to 4.0 billion in 2010.

100

Basil Blackwell Publisher, 108 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JF

policy at the University of Birmingham

m. officer

DERBYSHIRE
County Council

Group 8.
S.A.B. to Head for further details by 22nd May. (08917). 011-80

referred to the Headteacher (for
cap s.d.d. please); (07738) 013.

01
11
90

1000

LEICESTERSHIRE
BEAUCHAMP COLLEGE
Hedge Way, Oadby, Leicester.
In the Leicestershire plan for
the organisation of secondary
education. Under 14-18
Roll 1174
ENGLISH
Scale two
Inquired August. In well
timed, established, popular

JUDGEMEADOW SCHOOL
ND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Marydene Drive, Leicester
11 - 18 Comprehensive
Roll 1388

COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
Bircotes, Doncaster, S. York
DN11 8EF
Headmaster: Dr. A.A. Haslam
B.Sc.

temporary teacher' with responsibility for English, during the year of transition of the existing post.

Apply by letter with names
address of two referees. (0647)

Further information from H
ressa by post or telephone 0
57) giving names of typ

throughout the school up to C. G.C.E. 'O' level. The course includes Language and Drama.

WALSINGHAM SCHOOL
 perfield Road, St. Paul's C
 nton, Kent BR5 2QR
 d Comprehensive, 11-18.
 01-300 1298

Workshop for the most

...the ...

WILTSHIRE
THE JOHN BENTLEY SCHOOL

(11 - 13 Comprehensive, 1400 Pupils)
 Vacated in September 1983
 experienced teacher of Rural
 Environmental Science, with
 a minimum of 10 years' expe-
 rience. The successful candi-
 date appointed will be expected
 to take responsibility for this sub-
 ject within the Science Department.
 Please apply immediately to
 Headmaster, giving full details
 of qualifications and experience
 and the names of two academic
 referees, enclosing a stamped and
 addressed foolscap envelope. (0522) 676

Comprehensive School (1 to 16 Years)

the subject to 'O' Level and to assist in Chemistry teaching on to general science courses.

The first instance giving the Head Teacher, Mortimer Road, South Shields, says of the appearance of this

TESO70

City Council

Teachers
31 at:—
School and
Mitchell Avenue CV4 8DY
ATION — Scale 1. Temporary
s'
ool, Axholme Road,
level MATHEMATICS and
to L.E.A. temporary one year

C. Boys'
ool, Potters Green Road,
chool) (1000 on roll)
ecialist, Scale 1.
teacher to join established
clude heated swimming
overnors c/o the School.

REQUIRED FOR THE TERM 1981:
Wigan Whitley High School

**(11-12 Mixed Comprehensive)
TECHNICAL SUBJECTS
(Scale 1)
(This replaces previous advertisement for Art/Craft/Slow Learners):**

**Wigan Measnes High School
Parson's Walk, Wigan
WN1 1RT
(11-18 Mixed Comprehensive)
GERMAN
(Scale 2)**

Wigan Grammar Middle School
Buckley Street West,
Wigan WN3 7PQ
REMEDIAL TEACHER
(Scale 1)
Further particulars for all the
Immediately to the Headteacher
Ref. A21.

WIGAN

WATERBURY *Borough*

AYS 3 weeks
epal - Middle
don - Turkey.

1900 (Ld.)
 473-88
 but rewarding working holiday in
 the mountains. Volunteers needed to ex-
 cavate desert and coastal sites in
 the Mojave Desert. Low cost. \$130
 per trip including air fare, food
 and A.M. to P.M. 8:00. 677-3730, 30
 Gropi Russell Street, W.C. 91-
 656-1266. (06055) 474-88
CHICSTER House to let. 18th July
 in August, 20 p.w. for \$100.00. A
 place out. Close to historic city and
 French countryside. Tel: 474-88
 534579. (03377) 474-88
CHICHESTER, Comfortable twin-
 bedded room & breakfast. Quiet
 road close to city. Tel: 474-88
 534579. 8 am to 11 pm. £70.00 p.w. for
 2 persons. Tel: 474-88
 915161. (07528) 474-88
PLYMOUTH Teachers' home close
 to beach. 2 bedrooms. Tel: 474-88
 915161. 00 Plymouth Rd. Ply-
 mouth. (07576) 474-88
 fully equip-
 ed. Rural

Properties for sale and Wanted

SCHOOL FOR SALE
South Coast. Detached freehold property 245,000 complete. **WV 0175 474-80**
The Times WC1X 882. (05531) 474-80

LONDON
For sale established G.C.E. & Business studies tutorial college in W. London.
Please write to T. E. S., Box No. 451, The Times, WC1X 882. (05531) 474-80

A PREPARATORY SCHOOL in residential suburb of London. 50 pupils to 100. Detached freehold with 10 acres. 100,000. **WV 0175 474-80**
Furniture, 20,000. Goodwill and Equipment 40,000. **K. A. L. Ltd.**
100, School Transfer Consultants, 25 Station Road, Harrogate HG1 2JF (01433) 474-80

FOR SALE - Small but profitable

farm 1,100 ft.
 horses and Ponies
 riding. Excellent
 with life. Call
 John Wain, Writ-
 smoret, Epsford
 8358) 474-85

LLON Mas Forge
 offers full board

exchanges, 63 Middleton Close
 Tychose, Wards (05191) 475-08

HEADMASTER Seeks to purchase
 private school in North/West or
 near area. Funds available. No
 plate confidence guaranteed.
 Write box No. TEG 4115 The
 Times. WC1X 8EZ. (07618) 475-88

MANSFIELD NOTTE Modern de-

[illegible]

COMPANION to

**TEACHERS
BUDGET LOAN OFFER**

FAMILY.

**Homeowners borrow
from \$500-\$20,000**

your own repayment period from 3-15 years.

use the cash for any purpose or pay off all
g bills and reduce your monthly outgoings.
assuming interviews nor will your employers
nd, Speedy and confidential postal service
completion. Just call us.

or write:

OWNERS FINANCIAL SERVICES

Barclays Bank Chambers
Giles Square, Northampton
Tel: (0604) 34141
Lend Brokers Consumer Credit Act 1974
Loans available in England and Wales only

advertising in all classifications is £1.50 per line (see below).
 Classified advertisements £8.50 per single column centimetre, 9.5 cm double column at £161.50).
 This is made for Box Number facilities.
 All orders should be sent to:
 General Manager,
 National Supplement,
 100, Fleet Street, London EC4A 3DF.
 Tel: 01-477 2321.
 The following Friday's issue.
